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THE POWER OF CARING

Garth Brooks's Latest Hit Is A Foundation For Kids

arth Brooks sounds more like a major league general manager these days than a country music superstar.

"Injuries have been killing us," says the longtime baseball fan. "Losing Jason Kendall hurt a lot, and Bonds and Gwynn were out."

Now, Brooks isn't assessing his Rotisserie League team. He's talking about three participants in his new charity, the Touch 'em All Foundation. The organization enlists major league players to donate money based on their performances:

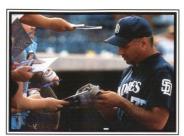
on their performances:

\$1,000 per home run, \$300 per save, \$100 per hit or pitcher's
strikeout, etc. Touch' em All assigns each player an entertainment celebrity, ideally of the player's own choosing. The
celebrities and a corporate sponsor still to be announced
match the player's donations. Starting in January, finds will be
dispersed biannually to children's charities focused on educational programs, health care services and inner-city outreach.

"Kids are the last picture of innocence, and that's what charity should be about," says Brooks, the father of three daughters. "One hundred percent of the money generated on the field goes to the kids. That's not a goal, it's a rule. We'll find ways to privately fund the foundation's overhead."

Touch 'em All refers to a player hitting a home run, but in this case the phrase has a double meaning. "Garth and I spent eight months talking about a charity." says foundation president Bo Mitchell, son of ex-major leaguer Dale. "Garth wanted to touch as many kids as possible. He wanted to touch them all. As soon as I said that, I knew we were on to something."

Brooks and Mitchell formed the Denver-based foundation



"One hundred percent of the money generated on the field goes to the kids. That's not a goal, it's a rule."

in January and designated a steering committee that Includes major leaguers Wally Joyner and Brian Huncter and former player Harold Reynolds. To help launch the charity, Brooks attended spring training with the San Diego Padres. America's alltime top-selling solo artist even skipped the Grammy Awards to stay at camp.

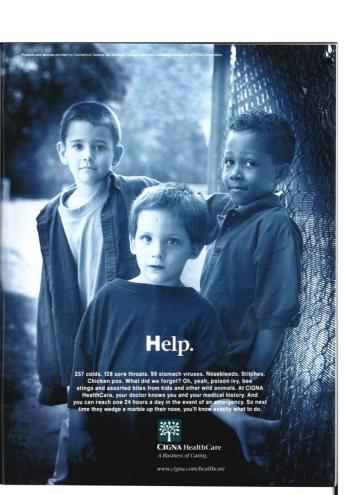
"He left his cowboy hat and boots in his locker, dressed out and didn't expect any special treatment," says Padres first baseman Joyner. "It was great to get to know him as a normal guy."

Brooks got only one hit, but he made friends throughout the game. Meanwhile, the Touch 'em All staff' visited every training camp in Arizona and Florida, signing players to pledge forms to support the foundation's inaugural year.

Touch 'em All has doubled its start-up goal of 35 players, including superstars Kevin Brown, Roger Clemens, Ken Griffey Jr. and Larry Walker; and already had raised more than
\$1 million by the All-Star break. The foundation continues to
round up celebrity partners. Brooks himself is matched with
Clemens, David Wells and several others, though he would
willingly give up a few of his big names to fellow entertainers.

"I'll pick anybody," he says. "It doesn't matter where the money comes from. The celebrities are watching the box scores to see how much they'll have to write checks for. It's making America's pastime count for every swing."—E.J. McGregor

For more information or to make a contribution, write the Touch 'em All Foundation, 1400 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 400, Denver, CO 80222 or visit www.touchemall.com.



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Rock on a Roll: Why he is the best comic in America (see THE ARTS)

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COVER: Digital photomontage by Arthur Hochstein. Photograph of baby by Jose Carrillo-PhotoEdit; image of DNA by Ken Eward-Photo Researchers, Inc.

A fictional series about the road to Armageddon makes big bucks INSET: Photograph for TIME by Kwaku Alston

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Suzuki presents Heisman Heroes

Spurring A Gator Legacy

national championship, Steve Spurrier developed his aerial genius as the Gators' Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback.

Back in '66, he was a freewheeling gunslinger with nerves of steel, sometimes falling asleep on the team bus to games, then picking apart defenses with pass plays he made up in the huddle. Spurrier exhibited such a penchant for lategame heroics he was nicknamed S.O.S., matching his initials.

A sportswriter admiringly hypothesized that, even with his hands tied behind his back and facing the wall, Spurrier would be a two-point favorite at his own execution.

So impeccable was his timing, he got the girl before winning the big game. Spurrier married his college sweetheart three days prior to his senior season, then led Florida to seven straight wins, the Gators' first such streak in 38 years.

In the last of those victories, the week after Heisman ballots went out, Spurrier went 27 of 40 for 259 yards and a touchdown in a 30-27 win over Auburn. His most impressive feat, however, was kicking the decisive 40-yard field goal in the final minutes. He also punted five times for a 46.9-yard average. Florida coach Ray Graves said of his all-purpose star, "I'm running out of ways to describe him.

A few weeks earlier, after watching Spurrier maneuver the Gators past his team 22-19, archrival Florida State coach Bill Peterson called him the greatest quarterback in

the history of college football. Spurrier believes the Auburn game, completing a 7-0 start,

won him the Heisman. "A lot of the voters went ahead and voted," he says. "If they had voted after the next game, in which Georgia clobbered us 27-10, I probably wouldn't have won it." Florida finished the year 9-2, suffering a regular-season-

ending loss to Miami before a 27-12 demolition of Georgia Tech in the Orange Bowl. Overall, Spurrier threw for 2.012 yards and 16 touchdowns. He had six 200-yard passing games a streak of 104 passes without an interception and at one point completed 16 straight tosses, still a Florida record. A pro scouting report gushed, "He has the arm of Sammy Baugh, the poise of Unitas, the leadership of Van Brocklin and the quickness of Namath.

Soon enough, Spurrier also had the Trophy of Heisman. He was the nation's clear choice, more than doubling the point total of runner-up Bob Griese, Purdue's star quarterback.

THREE DECADES BEFORE GUIDING FLORIDA TO THE 1996 Today that Heisman Trophy is displayed prominently among a lifetime of football memorabilia in Spurrier's Gator Room at home. "It's the best individual honor any college football player could win," he says.

Spurrier played 10 years in the NFL, mostly as a backup QB for San Francisco. He started coaching in 1978 as an assistant at Florida and had stints at Georgia Tech, the USFL and Duke before returning to Gainesville as top man in 1990.

Legendary Gator tales range from Spurrier's salad days as Florida signalcaller to his hand in helping Wuerffel (right) win the 1996 Heisman.



He attends the Heisman ceremony each December, and as the lone former winner who's a head college coach, he's the only one hustling home to prepare his team for a major bowl game. "I wasn't trained to be a college football coach," he says. "How many head college coaches played 10 years in the NFL? How many were All-Americans? None of them won the Heisman. I'm an exception to the norm.

Spurrier is also the only Heisman winner to coach a Heisman winner, quarterback Danny Wuerffel, the '96 recipient. "He was the quarterbacks coach, offensive coordinator and head coach," says Wuerffel, now with the New Orleans Saints. "He's solely responsible for my development."

Under Spurrier's tutelage, Wuerffel had the best career pass-efficiency rating in Division I-A history. Citing four SEC titles and a national championship. Spurrier calls Wuerffel the most productive quarterback to ever play college football." That sounds like what people were saving about another Florida quarterback 33 years ago. - E.J. McGregor

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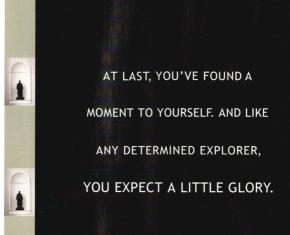
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Tim Padgett/Biscayne Bay

Saving Cities Built on the Sea

"Stiltsvilles" may have a dirty past, but a concerted effort is under way to save them from the environmentalists

ONG BEFORE HOLLYWOOD dreamed up Waterworld, Laura Roberts grew up in it. Her family owned a stilt house in Miami's Biscavne Bay-one of seven that still remain in "Stiltsville," an eccentric collection of homes standing like flamingoes in the shoals seven miles off the coast. In Al Capone's day, the community doubled as an aquatic red-light district. Bygone booze-and-broads joints like Pierre's Bikini Club are etched in Miami's nefarious past. But today Laura, 35, and her husband Ieff, 36, use her family's stilt house as a weekend retreat, an octopus' garden where their children can angle for bonefish from the balcony and squeal at dolphins that come by like neighborhood gossips. "Some of us," says Laura, "still want a frontyard-backyard relationship with blue water."

That dream is as much a part of Florida as stone crabs and retirement condos. Which is why this summer even landlubbers are rushing to defend scores of still houses across the state, from Biscayne Bay to the Everglades and the Gulf Coast. Environmentalists want the state and federal governments to raze the structures, many of which are on public land, because they regard them as a messy human intrusion on Florida's delicate ecosystem. But boosters insist the

But boosters insist the long-legged dwellings are a romantic reminder of how people and nature once harmoniously co-existed in Florida. "My son is studying to be a biologist because of the love for wildlife he nurtured out here," says J.R. Hinsley, a plant-nursery owner whose stilt house-a furnished, airconditioned "hunt camp" he calls the Fontainebleau-sits above alligator nests deep in the Everglades, southwest of Boca Raton, accessible only by airboat. "People can call us swamp rats and rednecks all they want," says Hinsley's neighbor Don Kirk, 59, "but folks are supporting us because most of them live on top of

asphalt today and we remind them of how Florida used to be —how they wish it was again."

Some "swamp rats," of course, have been known to treat the Everglades like a trailer park. But most, like Hinsley and Kirk, say they just want to preserve Florida's version of outback cowboy life-and a rare piece of history. Since the pre-Columbian era, the stilt house has been as much a part of the Caribbean waterscape as the windmill in Holland. Venezuela got its name when conquistadors marveled at the Indians' stilt huts and dubbed it "Little Venice.

The Spanish dotted the Florida coasts with stilt houses, often built from wrecked galleons. This sum-

Don Kirk on his airboat in front of his mer Governor Jeb Bush cited stilt houses as historic landmarks and helped renew the 20-year, submerged-land leases for existing houses on state property. That, however, does not cover the 25-year leases for Stiltsville, which is in Biscayne National Park. Their expiration this year fired up the federal wrecking ball-and local protesters, who rallied to save the site. Carl Hiaasen, who has used Stiltsville as a setting in his novels, argues that the houses can be lifesavers. He and his son, he wrote in the Miami Herald, once survived a violent storm by tying their boat to a Stiltsville pile. Hiaasen noted that Stiltsville helps the park by warding boaters away from Biscayne Bay's ecologically sensitive flats-which is important because "no body of water in North America attracts more certifiable morons in high-powered yachts and speedboats."

Because of the outcry, Stitisville's Congresswoman, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, has persuaded the park to extend the leases to December. She hopes to have a solution by then, perhaps redrawing the park's boundaries or winning landmark protection for Stilsville.

Still, the environmentalists may have their way in the end. Stiltsville once had more than 25 homes, but most have been destroyed by storms, and lightning often turns Everglades stilt houses into charcoal. Humans may want to co-exist, but nature isn't always so eager.



44 People can call us swamp rats and rednecks all they want. 77 -DON KIRK

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LETTERS



How Man Evolved

44 Right-thinking creationists do not impugn evolution. What we reject is a universe that made itself out of nothing.

(THE REV.) GEORGE MORGAN Chicago

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FASCINATING cover story on the evolution of the human species [PALEONTOLOGY, Aug. 23]. As a former anthropology student, I was thrilled to read about the important discoveries that have been made in the past several years. Scientists are valiantly attempting to shine a flashlight down the long, dark tunnel of man's ancient past, and they have succeeded in illuminating certain truths. Shame on those who are allowing ignorance and fear to prevent students from having the chance to understand their place in the great chain of human evolution-for it is nothing short of miraculous.

KRISTINA OLBERDING

YOUR ARTICLE "UP FROM THE APES" WAS concise, well written and very scientific. It convinced me that it takes more faith to believe in evolution than it does to believe in God.

SCOTT STEVENS Two Rivers, Wis.

THE SCIENTIFIC "PACTS" OF TOMAY HAVE
an unnerving way of being superseded
by tomorrow's knowledge and improved
technology. Your article said the human
race, of all the animal kingdom, is the
only currently unique species. Is the
not more than pure coincidence? A more
objective look at this extraordinary fact
might lead us to the words of Genesia:
"So God created man in his own image."
CHARLES HARDING
WEST SUPERS FRIGITATION.

NIGHT-HINKING CHAITONISTS DO NOT impugg evolution. What we reject is a universe that made itself out of nothing or is in eternal flux and presumes that we humans are little more than a strange fluke on the route to quantum mechanics. Pure evolution raises serious questions about such matters as justice, freedom and rights, for if there is no God, then, according to the principles of evo-

lution, the more powerful must always win while the weak and inferior deserve to be trampled or eliminated. With the unqualified acceptance of evolution, the creationist concepts of perennial values of equality and justice fly right out the existential window.

(THE REV.) GEORGE MORGAN Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Chicago

ANYONE WHO BELIEVES THERE IS "ONLY one species of human on the planet" has never shopped at Wal-Mart.

BETH WITHERELL Peoria, Ill.

THE IDEA THAT PERFECT ORDER "evolved" from chaos, inanimate mud or goo, without a Creator or a blueprint, is so stupid that a six-year-old child would reject it. How can something come from nothing? How can incredible diversity and complexity "evolve" mindlessly and randomly from one-celled slugs? And where did the ucome from?

PAT BOONE Los Angeles

HERE WE GO AGAIN. ONCE MORE WE ARE being told humans are nothing more than apes without fur.

Amy D. Ramsay Sellersville, Pa.

THE RECENT FOSSIL DISCOVERIES THAT supposedly document human evolution are mere opinions. Evolution has never been proved. It is a theory that is on shaky ground.

Andrew Diprose

That Controversial Ruling

RE STEPHEN JAY GOULD'S ARTICLE ON THE Kansas board of education's banning evolution in school curriculums [View-POINT, Aug. 23]: When the state school boards of America refuse to educate our

Gabriella Contreras helped her classmates steer clear of drugs and violence

That's why she's a Prudential Spirit of Community Award Honoree

"Through volunteering, I see kids having a positive impact, really helping each other, and solving issues together."

Gabriella Contreras 1999 Prudential Spirit of Communi Award Honoree Gabriella Contreras, 13, of Tucson, Arizona, was concerned about drugs and violence in her school. So she started a community service club that organizes her classmates and focuses their energy on volunteer projects. Gabriella's idea made life better for everyone in her community — and earned her a 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

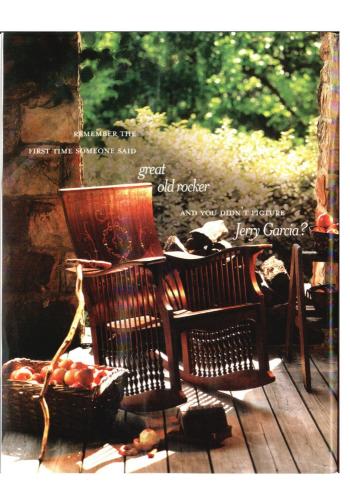
Do you know a young person who deserves recognition? Prudential created the Spirit of Community Awards in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals to honor young people like Gabriella in grades 5-12 for outstanding community service. And right now, we're looking for award candidates for the year 2000. If you know a young person who's made a difference in the community, we want to hear about it.

Awards are given at the local, state and national levels. Applications will be available in September through middle schools, high schools, Girl Scout councils and county 4-H organizations. Local honorees are selected in November and become candidates for statewide honors, a \$1,000 prize and a trip to Washington, D.C. At a special ceremony in the nation's capital, ten national honorees will each receive a \$5,000 award, a gold medallion and a crystal trophs.

Help us find next year's honorees! If you know any volunteer-minded students, encourage them to apply. The application deadline is October 29, 1999. For more information, call 1-800-THE-ROCK, ext. 1143.



This program is supported by the American Association of School Administrators, the Council of the Great City, Schools, the National Middle School Association, the National School Boards Association, and the National 4H Council. The Prudential Insurance Company of America, 273 Board Steep, Marwin, Ng 07/102/3777.



There might have been a time when rock and roll mattered more than tongue and groove. After all, everybody is young once. But childhood, mercifully, is fleeting. While good taste, thankfully, is not.

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children properly, one can only thank God—yes, God—that TIME is willing to do it for them.

JOHN DUVALL Elon College, N.C.

WHY DOESN'T THE KANSAS BOARD OF EDUcation hire some archaeologists to locate the graves of Adam and Eve?

GRAY A. NESBIT Santa Ana, Calif.

IT WOULD ONLY BE NATURAL TO ASSUME that TIME has been banned in Kansas.

MARTHA DOWD

Peoria, Ariz.

Look Who's Listening

I TAKE ISSUE WITH SOME OF ANDREW FERGUSON'S DOINTS in "Now They're All Ears" [POLITICAL SCENE, Aug. 23]. I agree that political candidates" "listening argue that political candidates" "listening tours" seem to have elements of a sham, but I think Ferguson exaggerates a bit. In times past, politicians were criticized for their detachment from their constituencies. In an age when it has become easients.

DARKNESS IN KANSAS



Stephen Jay Gould's remarks on the decision by the Kansas school board to expunge evolution from the state's science

riculum [VIEWPOINT, Aug. 23] spurred readers to sound off about the board's ruling. "Even the Pope, who is not especially known for his lightened views, came out of the rkness in 1996 to embrace olution," stated Sam Pisicchio of Napa, Calif. And Richard Firenze of nghamton, N.Y., suggested that Kansas' backwardness might have changed Dorothy's itinerary in The Wizard of Oz. "Seems as though Dorothy could have saved herself the trip [to a fantasy world] by just attending the Kansas school board meeting," quipped Firenze, adding, "Fortunately neither ruby slippers nor creationist rhetoric can repeal reality." Reader Vaughn F. Wiester of Columbus, Ohio, felt the state board deserved more than mere chiding: "It should be awarded some colorful medieval punishment or haps an honorary membership in the Flat Earth Society."





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er to travel and communicate, it's necessary for candidates to deal directly with the voters—not just to get ideas but also to find out what some of America's problems and needs are.

LARRY SCHOOLER New Haven, Conn.

KUDOS TO PERGUSON POBAN EXTERITANing look at the latest politicial gimmick,
listening. Politicians have no shame
when it comes to manipulating the
American voter. One wonders if any of the
trusting people who raise concerns
for the consideration of politicians
expect anything more than lip service.
The time for politicians to listen is after
they have been elected, not before.

PERRY NICHOLS Brewster, Mass.

President Bulworth

DID EVERYONE FORGET THAT POSSIBLE presidential candidate Warren Beatty [NOTEBOOK, Aug. 23] is married to the beautiful Annette Bening, who was cast as the romantic interest of widower President Michael Douglas in the movie The American President? Go for it, Warren! Perfect casting!

Lymnfield, Mass.

Looking for a Safe Haven

YOUR STORY "IS ANY FIACE SAPE" MAD proted on the runs by schools to install security measures [Natron, Aug. 23]. Now we have constant high-tech surveillance, security fences, uniforms ... So what are we teaching our children! How to live in a police state. Undoubtedly that the state of the

TONY KALENAK Odessa, Texas

LAM TIBED OF HEALING HOW THE LS. IS getting more dangerous every day for everyone from minorities to schoolchildren. There have always been violence and violent people here. With a population of more than 260 million, the U.S. is a place where anything can happen anythine. The real problem is that the press, making such a big thing out of every courrence, is covincing people that we courrence to convincing people that we that schoolchildren get hurt and killed, but more than IS million students go to

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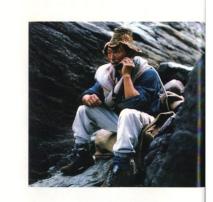
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> CRAIG LITTLEFIELD Tucson, Ariz.

Life in Cell-Phone Hell

JOSHUA QUITNERS ARTICLE ABOUT HOW cell-phone users can be extremely annoying was a masterpiece in "irritating humor" [BUSINESS, Aug. 23]. I laughed till I cried. Quitture really sized up the situation and even gave a reasonable solution—a hypothetical electronic jamming device that would knock a phone abuser of Hine. It was great having a comic break during my workday. And, yes, I do have a cell phone.

SANDY MASON North Fort Myers, Fla.

WHERE CAN I BUY MY CELL JAMMER? Please, please, I hope some enterprising company creates such a device. If it had a range that would allow me to jam the

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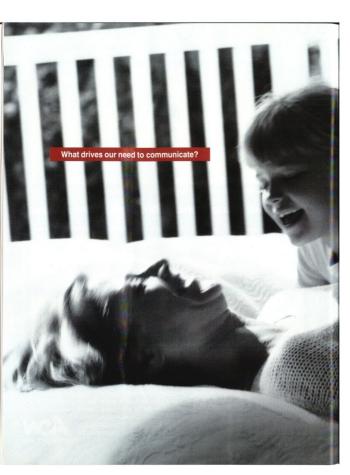
6. Our four-page News Scoop edition is aimed at second- and third-graders. To order either edition, call (800) 777-860

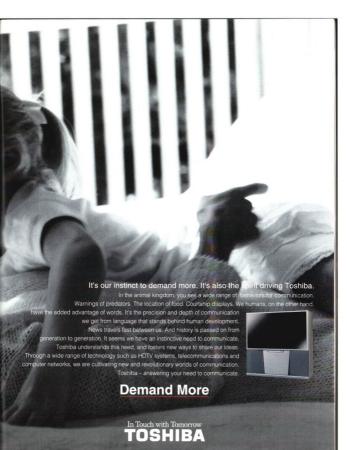


Our revolutionary shoe. Who could've helped?

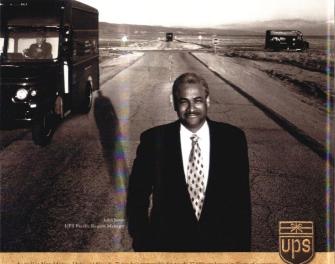


The ZB-10 was a revolutionary shoe. Unfortunately, the country it was distributed from was experiencing political unrest. Now the manufacturer's entire inventory is stuck in a warehouse 12,000 miles away. Aon could've helped by designing capital and distribution alternatives in the event of economical, political or environmental crisis. It's just one of the services from Aon, the leader in integrating risk management and consulting. Contact Aon. Find the solutions to insure your vision. www.aon.com





John Jones' territory once covered Main Street, Sycamore and 4th. Now it's California, Arizona and Utah.



As well as New Mexico, Idaho and Nevada: Today, he's responsible for hearly 27,000 employees, millions of cursomers and more than \$2.8 billion in business. Whether delivering package, or managing one of our largest regions, John has consistently been among the best at everything he a done since 1969. That's how he earned the position he has roday. You see, at UPS, how far you get depends on how hard you're willing to work. How good you are st your job. And what you've accomplished. In other words, everyone at UPS has the saine chance for advancement. No matter where they start. To learn more, yint www.community.ups.com.

cell phone of a driver in another car. I would buy one in a heartbeat. What a joy it would be to see drivers actually using turn signals and paving attention to the traffic instead of blindly babbling away on the phone.

AMY ALEXANDER San Jose, Calif.

LAST WEEK I FOUND MYSELF IN CELL hell. After six hours on a plane, we passengers were crammed onto a bus without seats for the ride to the terminal. I immediately found myself surrounded by three cell-phone yakkers, one of whom was no more than six inches from my face. If I had had a free hand, I would have taken my blow dryer out of my carryon and given those cell-phone users a taste of their own electronic medicine. Sign me up for ihatecellphones.com

IUDITH A. WEBB Pacific Grove, Calif.

Modern-Day Michelangelo

I'VE JUST FINISHED READING CHARLES Krauthammer's article on Les Schofield. the innovative designer of vehicles for the disabled [TECHNOLOGY, Aug. 16]. I'm proud as hell to say this modern-day Michelangelo is my Uncle Les. I can remember as a young boy my father telling me that my uncle was probably the smartest guy he knew. There was always something extraordinary about this man who could look at a plain old van and see a way to help a disabled person drive. I once sat behind the wheel of one of his creations. The marvel of levers that allow for movement of a disabled person is still fresh in my head. Perhaps the best thing about this self-educated man is his ability to see into the future while keeping his feet on the ground. I'm proud of him. WAYNE F. THERRIEN

Pomfret Center, Conn.

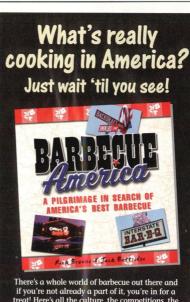
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TIME, SEPTEMBER 13, 1999





NOTEBOOK

VERBATIM

44 They're just excited because it's a celebrity. It doesn't matter whether it's Bill Clinton or Daffy Duck. And they're in the same category, really. "

PAT O'CONNOR.

Skaneateles, N.Y., delicatessen owner, on locals' attitudes toward the Clintons, who are vacationing there

44 You fight against tyranny by any means necessary.

KEN CURTIS, entrepreneur, who sells his urine on the Internet to help people pass drug tests

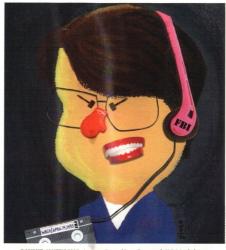
44 You must be morons to send me this letter! 77

BERNARD LEWINSKY, Monica's father, returning a letter requesting donations to the Clinton Legal Expense

Trust, according to a family friend

what did I see? The Eiffel Tower. I was so impressed. It looked so real, it felt like home. 77 CATHERINE DENEUVE.

actress, at the opening of the new Las Vegas casino, Paris Sources: O'Connor, Curlis: Washington Post: Lewinsky: AF: Deneuve: Reuters



DAMMIT, JANET'S MAD Attorney General Janet Reno sends U.S. Marshals into FBI headquarters to grab material as her feud with Director Louis Freeh heats up over the tardy appearance of evidence in the Branch Davidian-raid controversy

WINNERS & LOSERS



iBook's a hit, G4 looks super, and Toy Story 2 has light years of buzz. Too late to get stock? MADELEINE ALBRIGHT Wye-bred peace plan back on track. But no Nobel for né

Korbel until she bags Big Peace

PHONE USERS

AT&T 7¢ rate escalates price

war. So how come our

bill seems bigger?

PETE SAMPRAS
Uncrowned King of Queens. Injury forces tennis über-champ out of U.S. Open and dents No. 1 ranking

PASEBALL UMPIRES
Yer ouuut! Twenty-two men
in blue get boot after failed
strike fizzles

AMUSEMENT PARKS
Killer coasters cast pall on
summer. What's next? E. coll
cotton candy?



A GLARY-AFF

DIANA

Two Years Later, Dodi's **Dad Wants a Day in Court**

NOT WITH A BANG BUT A WHIMPER. THAT'S how the intensive two-year investigation into the death of PRINCESS DIANA and DODI FAYED wound up as French magistrates dropped all charges against the photographers who pursued the couple on the night of the crash. The real culprit, say French officials, was driver HENRI PAUL. whose state of inebriation and medication made him lose control of the car on a dangerous stretch of road. But Dodi's father Mohammed al Faved, billionaire owner of the Paris Ritz, is appealing the decision to drop charges. Convinced that Princess Diana was murdered to prevent a marriage with his Muslim son, al Faved is desperate to air his conspiracy theories in court. He wants the British inquests into the exact causes of Diana's and Dodi's



deaths to be held jointly, which would allow him to testify at Diana's inquest, and to hold the hearings before a jury. The two coroners in the case have turned him down on both counts, but al Fayed is appealing, Meanwhile, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, among others, could sue al Faved's Ritz for civil damages for allowing its improperly licensed and drunken security chief to take the wheel of the Mercedes.

-By Thomas Sancton/Paris

TRAVEL

Why Bill Will Meet Sir Ed: **Because He's There**

PRESIDENT CLINTON, IT SEEMS, WILL GO to almost any length to keep Hillary's name in the public eve-even

halfway around the world to New Zealand to meet with SIR EDMUND HILLARY. The White House has penciled in a meeting



conqueror, 80, a living legend in his homeland and probably the most famous New Zealander ever (his face even graces the local \$5 bill), during Clinton's state visit next week following the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Auckland. Sir Edmund won't, however, meet the Rodham Clinton Hillary, who is staving home. The White House insists that New York Senate politics has nothing to do with the get-together. Rather, a spokesman said, the President considers the explorer a leading environmentalist and one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century. -By Jay Branegan/Washingto

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Who Are the New Beat Poets? Hint: They're Blue

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS THE Chicago police have been scrambling to polish their image. Each week, it seems, there are new reports of everything from brutality to deficient officer training. Of late, though, the cops are showing a softer side. Even the Chicago Tribune, which had published a series of negative reports about the department, last week featured the men and women in blue waxing poetic about the beat under soft light at a South Side precinct.

The idea for "Take 5," as it is called, came from Sergeant Regina Evans, who was looking for a nontraditional way to get teenagers to come to the station to bond



been surprised by its popularity among officers as an opportunity to work through the vicissitudes of cop life.

with police. But she has

While civilians are encouraged to read and professional poets

show up, it's the cops who are causing the interest, maybe because of contributions like this one from Officer Linda Griffith: "He allows me to walk [amid] the danger./ He lets me extend help to a stranger / My flesh crawls and I miss him when he's not under my wing./ I don't let people see or touch him, it's a private thing./ So you should be grateful and understand what I've done / If and when I let you touch the butt of my gun." -By Julie Grace/Chicago







Converse sneakers Ellesse women's wear. Wilson racquets Cinderella in tennis shoes (by media)

Self-designed Reebok outfits, Wilson racquets, Reebok sneakers Ghetto Cinderella (by father)

Game and Set, but No Match

F THERE WERE DOUBT THAT IT'S A NEW era in women's tennis, the halter number Venus Williams wore at the U.S. Open dispelled it. The young ladies of tennis have been replaced by brassy girls with wicked

strokes. The Williams sisters have created a media frenzy that hasn't been seen in American tennis since ... well, since Chris Evert. Can the hair-beaded powerhouse stand up to the hair-ribboned champ?

It's a Ruff World. So Paws To Consider Your Pooch

ONSIDERING A CAREER IN THE booming pet industry? The folks at Pet Sitters International want you. Very much. The professional organization, which offers accreditation courses in pet sitting, among other things, will hold its fifth annual convention in New Orleans this week. A preview:

WHY ATTEND?

Says the brochure: "Imagine a huge room filled with the most successful, hardworking and talented pet sitters in the world ... Just think how much creative energy and brain power



you've attended [before], you know the

magic ... SAMPLE ACADEMIC FARE:

Problem Solving for Pet Sitters ("How to handle break-ins, workmen, house keys and weather disasters"); Profiles in Pet-Sitting Success: Dental Care for Dogs and Cats; Pet-i-Zens, a seminar on caring for elderly pets from Thom Somes, "the Pet Safety Guy."

ON A LIGHTER NOTE:

Yappy Hour, from the owners of celebritypet haunt Three Dog Bakery; The Doggie Fashion Show-part of the networking luncheon-featuring faux-fur coats and multicolored raincoats. Pucci would be jealous.

HILLARY - RUDY

IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG YEAR With elections a mere 14 months away, the Senate race in New York, which looks to pit a First Lady, Hillary Clinton, against a popular mayor, Rudy Giuliani, has become the one to handicap. No event in the state or the lives of the two candidates is so trivial as to have no ramifications for the campaign. This week ...

EVENT Two citizens are shot by cops, one possibly by accident Rudy serves on a jury for a case

in which a man is claiming damages for injuries to his penis The Clintons buy a \$1.7 million Westchester County mansion Judge says Million Youth March must be given a permit to rally Clintons vacation in Skaneateles.

N.Y., and are warmly received



RESULT Have Rudy's tough-on-crime tactics spun the police force out of control? Rudy's a regular New Yorker, not too big

to do his civic duty, but is he just about Hillary's afraid of the big city, huh? If she

small stuff?

can't make it there ... Rudy's a guy who hates racism but doesn't

seem to love the First Amendment Is it a vacation or a campaign stop? Only her campaign manager knows for sure

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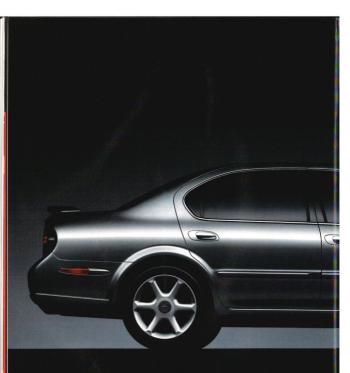
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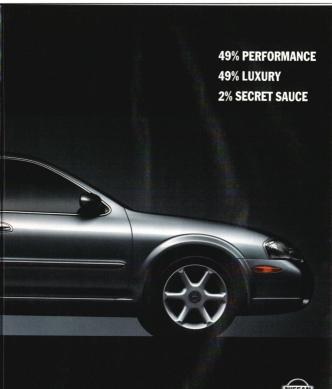


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Is This How Fellini Got Started?

AM RIDING THE BUZZ. IT IS A BUZZ I BUILT, ALBERT BY accident. The buzz started last month, when I got a random call from Jed Weltzman, an ambitious 28-year-old manager at Brillsetin-Crey. He told me that he really related to the pop references in my column and wanted to manage my Hollywood career, even though I didn't have one. Seeing as I am not the first to allude to The Brady Bunch in a story that was not about IV, I sensed this was just another

lame cover for the attraction people feed from eafter seeing my picture on TIME'S Contributors page. But just in case, I swent out to breakfast with him in LA, and he spent the morning telling me how great I was and how he wanted to be part of the "Joel Stein business." I told him I didn't have any serips or deas for scripts or even the ability to write a script. This did not deter him at all. It was all so overwhelming and exciting, I forgot to ask him what a manage or does. This, I now realize, is probably how Mike Tyson got hooked up with Don Kim. Because even though I knew

the whole thing was completely phony, it

made me feel pretty. At one point, Weitzman saw a fellow employee at the restaurant. He brought her over. Like a gunslinger, she whipped her index finger at me and said, "You are so talented." It was obvious she had no idea who I was. This is now what III say to everyone I ever meet except for Val Klimer.

Weitzman would get 10% of my take, which seemed steep until I realized it was 10% of nothing. That felt like a small price for a guy to call me all the time and tell me I'm funny. Still, I wanted to be sure I had the very best manager telling me I'm funny. So I asked some writer friends for the names $\frac{n}{2}$ of their agents and called three of them.

I must have called the right ones, because I suddenly got messages from agents I'd never heard of from places like William Morris. I had created some sort of bidding war among agents who were afraid of missing out on whatever it is they be thought it was I did. I decided to hold out for lots of free breakfasts. This. I flered, might better "lots letin business."

Then I started hearing rumors about myself. A guy at Fox

told me my name popped up in a development meeting. I realized that this was the biggest opportunity I'd ever have to sell a script. The trick would be signing a deal before anyone found out I couldn't write one. This may be how most movies set made.

I wound up choosing Richard Weitz at Endeavor because he used the phrase "Let's make some money" three more times than any other agent. I also liked how the very attractive receptionist asked if f'd like to be validated.

tionist asked if I'd like to be validated. I told her I thought I already was and threw in the word "baby." She said she

meant my parking. I figured if I came back, the *Moonlighting*-esque banter might continue.

After I told Weitz he could be my agent. I found out I was also allowed to get a manager, even though they do the exact same thing. And it would only cost 20% of nothing. I told Weitzman to come aboard. He wanted to get right to work, starting with a meeting later this week with Weitz. So now I'm looking for a screenwriter to complete the team. I'm offering 10%. Please send applications to my agent.

SHE'S BAAACK



YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE Monica Lewinsky popped back on our radar last week with the news that she is selling her own line of handbags on the Internet and trying to lose weight. But these newspaper ads, garnered over the past two months, suggest some folks never wanted her to go away.

PLATITUDE

RIDE WITH REAGAN Will 5,000 motorists stick one on for the Gipper? The California State Assembly has approved a Ronald Reagan license plate. (The Reagan library suggests the design below.) If the Governor signs the bill and drivers order if, the plate will be available mid-2000.



THE ROTAL PROPERTY OF THE PERSON OF THE PERS

TRUT

The most effective deterrent to drug use among kids isn't the police, or prisons, or politicians. One of the most

effective deterrents to drug use among kids is their parents. Kids who learn about the risks of drugs from their parents are 36% less likely to smoke marijuana than kids who learn nothing from them. They are 50% less likely to use inhalants. 56% less likely to use cocaine, 65% less likely to use LSD. So if you're a parent, talk to your kids about drugs. Research also shows that 74% of all fourth graders wish their parents would talk to them about drugs. If you



The Geocentric System

Five hundred years ago, the sun was thought to revolve around the earth. People did not know then what we know now Truths change. We now know smoking marijuana is harmful. The younger you are, the more harmful it may be. Research has shown that people who smoke marijuana before the age of 15 were over 7 times more likely to use other drugs than people who have never smoked marijuana.

Illegal drugs are estimated to cost America over \$110 billion each year in treatment, enforcement, incarceration and social damage. But what else could you buy for \$110 billion? Well, you could build 169 new hospitals. Or 687 new universities. Or operate 366 national parks. You could hire 278.481 new high school teachers. And 400.947 more clerks at the post office. Or you could put 75,862 new buses on the road. You could send KISS on tour to every major city in America and give everyone a free ticket. This message is brought to you by the Office of National Drug Control Policy/Partnership for a Drug-Free Americal

ARRESTED. MARTIN FRANKEL, 44, fugitive financier whose trading firm may have been the center of a sophisticated scam that siphoned some \$335 million from a web of insurance companies; by German police on a warrant charging him with U.S. federal money-laundering and wire-fraud offenses: at a hotel in Hamburg. Extradition is expected to take several months. After flying to Rome in May, Frankel vanished. At one point, a report had him in Brazil. Mona Kim, his office manager and a companion in the early part of his journey, told CNN that there was no high living: "I don't recall that I ever saw him relaxed." At his arrest,

Frankel simply said, "You got me."

SENTENCED. JOHN GOTTI JR.,

35, son of mobster John Gotti;

to 6% years in prison; in White

Plains, N.Y. He had plead-

ed guilty in April to

charges of bribery and extortion.

DIFD. WILLIAM NIFR.

former State Department official and frequent hostess to Washington's political heavyweights for more

than three decades: of a heart attack: in Alexandria, Va. Braden inspired the character of the matriarch in the '70s ABC series Eight Is Enough. a show based on husband Tom Braden's book about their family of 10.

DIED, JOAN BRADEN, 77.

DIED. CHARLES LOWE, 87, early TV producer and longtime manager to his wife of 41 years, Carol Channing; in Los Angeles. Channing filed for divorce last year, calling Lowe a "control freak."

DIED. WALDO COHN. 89. Manhattan Project biochemist who helped develop plutonium for the atom bomb; in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Cohn's methods were later used in RNA and DNA research.

> DIED. LOUISE PATTERSON, 97. vigorous civil rights activist and cultural force in the Harlem Renaissance; in New York City. Patterson's myriad activities included helping her onetime boss and longtime friend Langston Hughes, left, start the Harlem Suitcase Theater and organizing a notable Marxist-friendly salon, Vanguard.



\$2.65 Projected price of a pack of U.S. cigarettes by 2000; 12.8% of it will be federal tax

\$6.25 Price of a pack of cigarettes in Britain: 80% of it is tax

17% Drop in cigarette sales in Alaska after hiking the state tax from 29¢ to \$1



500% Increase in enrollments in the film class at the University of Central Florida that the creators of The Blair Witch

Project took, since last year

5% Decrease in applications to medical schools in 1998 compared with 1997

1.966 Annual hours worked per person in the U.S. in 1997, up from 1.883 in 1980

1.889 Hours worked per person in Japan in 1995, down from 2,121 in 1980



\$5.7 million Amount bid for a kidney in an online auction before eBay yanked the offer as illegal

42,907 People on the U.S. waiting list for a kidney transplant as of Sept. 1

ING, 75, wetlandecology expert; in New London, Conn.

He was one of the first to discover that marshes performed important functions and weren't dispensable pieces of land for developers to drain and build on.

MAP

The recent spate of deadly accidents on amusement park rides has focused attention on the spotty inspection system With no federal oversight, each state has to set its own standards

FATAL THRILLS



NEWS

The object above is the a) Backside cache from Apple's new G4 desktop b) Charred evidence from the Branch Davidian compound c) Oldest known pencil in the world, owned by Count von Faber-Castell

astronaut Jean-Pierre Haignere took when abandoning Mir e) Toy that Ty Inc. will make instead of Beanie Babies

300 years old) Answer: c (if's about

INNOCENT, AFTE

By ADAM COHEN

KLAHOMA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL science teacher Dennis Fritz never thought he would be convicted of raping and murdering his neighbor, 21-year-old Debra Sue Carter. He had no criminal record, except for driving offenses, and the case against him was paper thin-flimsy circumstantial evidence and the dubious testimony of a jailhouse snitch who claimed Fritz confessed while awaiting trial. Was that really all it took to send a man away for life? "When the jury came back with a guilty verdict, I almost went into shock, says Fritz

His conviction separated Fritz from his 13-year-old daughter Elizabeth, whom he was raising as a single father. His co-defendant. Ron Williamson, landed on death row and came within days of being executed. Years later, Williamson's conviction was

reversed on a technicality. Before retrying him, pros-

ecutors

decided to do a DNA test of semen and hair found at the crime scene and compare them with Williamson's. Fritz's lawyers asked them to test Fritz too. Result? The DNA excluded both men and implicated someone else who had never been charged with the crime. Last April, after 12 years behind bars, Fritz and Williamson were freed.

Such stories have become shockingly familiar: a convicted criminal, wasting away in jail with little hope of ever proving his innocence, is set free when a DNA test reveals he couldn't have committed the crime. Vincent Jenkins, who had served 17 years in prison for the rape of a Buffalo, N.Y., woman, was released just last week after DNA evidence showed he was not the culprit. He became the 65th inmate to have a conviction overturned thanks to DNA evidence, including eight released from death row. These numbers are testimony to the fallibility of our criminal-justice system, as well as to the determination of the Innocence Project, an enterprising New York City law clinic that has pioneered the use of DNA to free the wrongly convicted. The Innocence Project is the brain-

child of New York lawyers Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld. Both gained fame as part of O.J. Simpson's legal "dream team, and Scheck returned to the media spotlight as the defense attorney for British au pair Louise Woodward. But the Innocence Project dates back to an earlier time, when Scheck and Neufeld were overworked and underpaid Legal Aid lawyers in the South Bronx. Like most defense lawvers, they believed the system made mistakes. And ear-



Neufeld and Scheck sten in when the

THE DEFENDANT Vincent Jenkins

THE CASE Convicted in 1982 of the rape of a Buffalo. N.Y., woman THE SENTENCE 20 years to life in

prison THE DNA REVEALED that semen recovered from the victim came from two men, neither of them Jenkins

THE RESULT After first contending that Jenkins may still have been one of several attackers, prosecutors did not oppose his release. He walked out of prison last Wednesday after 17 years, saying, "It's a beautiful thing



I

EN GUI

lier than most, they realized that the hot new technology of DNA testing could revolutionize criminal defense by providing scientific proof that their clients were not guilty. After doing DNA testing in a few early cases and organizing a conference, Scheck and Neufeld soon found themselves leaders in the field.

They established the Innocence Project in 1991 as a clinic for students at Yeshiya University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where Scheck has taught for more than 20 years. The clinic is a low-key place, hidden away on the 11th floor of an office building on lower Fifth Avenue. Law students hunched up in cubicles pore over case files and draft legal motions. In a corner, boxes are piled high with letters from prisoners pleading to have the project take their case. The law school pays most of the bills; private foundations, including George Soros' Open Society Institute, help with the rest.

When those letters do get opened, students and staff screen the cases using the mate was tried, was identity the key issue? (If he admitted he pulled the trigger but claimed it was self-defense, there's not a lot a DNA test can do to help.) Was biological evidence taken at some point? In rape cases semen is generally recovered, and in murder cases there is often hair or skin evidence. But some samples come from less obvious sources: in the World Trade Center bombing case, DNA was recovered from saliva on the back of a postage stamp. And does this evidence still exist? The project has to reject about 70% of the cases that come to it because evidence was lost or destroved or is otherwise unavailable. Finally, is there a viable theory of innocence? If prosecutors had fingerprints placing the defendant at the crime scene, for example, is there an innocent explanation?

After taking a case, the first hurdle the Innocence Project faces is getting access to biological evidence. New York and Illinois have laws mandating post-conviction DNA testing. But everywhere

More inmates are being set free thanks to DNA tests-and a pioneering law clinic

else, it's up to the prosecutor-the same office that is being accused of sending an innocent person to jail. If the prosecutors cannot be persuaded or cajoled into turning over the evidence, the Innocence Project will go to court to demand it.

About 60% of the samples the Innocence Project sends out for testing come back in their clients' favor. At that point, many prosecutors quickly concede and free the inmate. Earlier this year, the Innocence Project produced DNA showing that Calvin Johnson Jr. was innocent of a Clayton County, Ga., rape he had been convicted of in 1983. In June, the same district attorney who originally sent Johnson away persuaded a judge to free him.

But prosecutors don't always give up that easily. The Buffalo D.A.'s office refused to release Vincent Jenkins even after DNA tests showed that semen recovered from the victim came from two men, neither of them Jenkins. Prosecutors insisted that the victim could have been raped by several men, including Jenkins, but that he didn't ejaculate. The prosecutors later

abandoned that unlikely scenario and did not oppose his release.



THE CASE Convicted by an Oklahoma jury of raping and murdering his neighbor, 21year-old Debra ue Carter

THE SENTENCE Life in prison

THE DNA REVEALED that Fritz and his co-defendant were ocent-and that other man, who was already in prison for another crime, was the culprit

THE RESULT Released after 12 years in prison





In addition to taking individual cases, Scheck and Neufeld are lobbying for more systemic change. They want other states to adopt laws like New York's, creating a right to post-conviction DNA testing and requiring the state to pay if the inmate can't afford the \$3,000 to \$5,000 cost. They also want laws requiring prosecutors to keep DNA evidence at least as long as a defendant remains in jail. Now prosecutors are generally free to throw away biological evidence when they want.

Scheck and Neufeld also want more laws allowing the wrongly imprisoned to sue for damages. Only half a dozen states currently have such statutes, and some have low caps-like California's \$10,000 maximum. If Dennis Fritz had slipped and fallen in a government building, he could have sued for millions. After being incarcerated for 12 years for a crime he didn't commit, he can't sue for anything.

The Innocence Project is operating in a shrinking field. The vast majority

of its docket consists of old cases. prosecuted when DNA testing was still rare. Now that law enforcement is integrating DNA into its investigative procedures (see box), there should be fewer people convicted despite exonerating biological evidence. But the broader problem addressed by the project-that innocent people are going to jail-shows no sign of ending. Why is the criminal-justice system making so many mistakes?

One reason, the Innocence Project has shown, is that juries often don't require much evidence to convict people of serious crimes. In hindsight, it seems obvious that the case against Fritz-no eyewitnesses, no evidence linking him to the victim and no credible evidence linking him to the crime scene-was painfully weak. So was the case in Tulsa, Okla., against Tim Durham, who spent six years in prison (of a 3,220-year sentence) for the rape of an 11-year-old girl, until DNA cleared him. The jury ignored 11 alibi witnesses who swore Durham was at a skeet-shooting contest when the crime occurred

DNA is also confirming a point legal scholars have long made: that evewitnesses are often wrong. "There's a myth that the image is burned in a witness's mind and never forgotten," says Yale Law School lecturer Stephen Bright, "In fact, science says just the opposite." And eyewitness testimony is only as reliable as the eyewitness. Two men sentenced to death for a Chicago murder and then freed by DNA evidence in 1996 were convicted largely on the testimony of a woman with a sub-75 IQ. who later said prosecutors promised to release her from jail if she testified.

Even many prosecutors concede the Innocence Project is performing an important function. Robert Keller, the Clayton County district attorney who agreed that Calvin Johnson Jr. should be freed, says he applauds its work in that case and in others. "My only concern is that we not create the image that there are just tremendous numbers of inmates who have been wrongly convicted," he says. "That isn't the case Still. Scheck says one of the most im-

portant lessons from the Innocence Proi-

ect's work is that the system does get it wrong, and more often than people think. One person who doesn't need to be convinced is Dennis Fritz. Now that he's free, he's planning to go to law school-and to start a new career as a defense attorney.



DNA: Putting Bad Guys Away Too

EBBIE SMITH, A REceptionist in a hair salon in Williamsburg,

Va., had given up hope that the police would ever catch the man who took her from her kitchen and raped her in the woods outside her home in 1989. She didn't get a good look at him during the assault, and the investigators didn't have any solid leads. For years Smith lived in fear that he would return and attack her or her daughters. But one day, her husband, a police officer, came home with good news: the state DNA lab had caught her rapist. Norman Jimmerson, in fact, was already in iail, convicted of kidnapping and robbing two other women around the same time that Smith was attacked. When his DNA was entered into the state's data bank-something Virginia law now requires of all felons-it matched a semen sample recovered from Smith and entered in the bank six years earlier. On the basis of the DNA match, Jimmerson was convicted of raping Smith and given two life sentences plus 25 years.

While DNA makes headlines by exonerating people of crimes they were convicted of years ago, the same technique is enabling police across the country to track down and put away criminals who might otherwise have gone free. DNA is the biggest thing to happen in crime solving since fingerprints-and it's likely to be a lot more useful. Fingerprints can be used only when a perpetrator happens to leave a clean imprint. But DNA can be taken from hair, sweat or saliva. It even has a conve-

nient tendency to fall off skin, leaving genetic markers behind. The key to harnessing the crime-busting power of DNA is building up state databases, like the one that found Smith's rapist. Forty-three states now have such databases, and they are growing rapidly. Virginia's DNA bank, for example, currently has 190,000 samples, which have produced about 60 matches so far. Those successes are likely to increase rapidly as Virginia adds 8,000 DNA samples a month.

The next big step is linking the states' databases. The FBI has started providing states with free CODIS (combined DNA index system) software, which digitizes and compares DNA profiles. This has already produced some impressive results. After a series of rapes in Sarasota, Florida investigators entered DNA from the crime scene into the national system. The DNA turned out to match that of Mark Daigle, who had served time in Virginia six years earlier for burglary. Florida officials arrested Daigle, and last year he was convicted

-With reporting by Elaine Shannon/Washington

Feuding over Waco

Sects, files and videotape fuel the face-off between Justice and the FBI over the Branch Davidians

By ELAINE SHANNON

O ONE QUITE BELIEVED WHAT JANET Reno was swing. The Attorney Cenral walked into the press conference on Friday, dressed in a straw yellow was furious at the FBI and its director, Louis Freeh. "You all are going to try your Louis Freeh. "You all are going to try your not going to succeed," Beno said, her face fixed in a thin smile.

But what was one to think? Two days earlier, Reno had ordered U.S. marshals into ras headquarters in the Hoover building to "lade custody of"-not 'seize," she and the ras insisted—evsured to the control of the control Hostage Rescue Team had freed at least two "hot" military tear-gas grenades during the 1959 Wave Siege. The week before, the revelation had humilated Reno and rekindled conspiracy theories—in the face of overspiracy theories—in the face of overtual the government had set the fires

that destroyed the Branch Davidian

compound and killed some 80 men. women and children. And why hadn't she been told that airplane surveillance tapes, which captured the moment when the pyrotechnic rounds were deployed, had been found in a box in the HRT office in Quantico. Va.? Dispatching the marshals would be a sign of her anger and a vote of no confidence in Freeh and the FBI, right? Wrong. she said. "I don't think this is a matter of anger," Reno said stonily. "This is a matter of getting to the truth. And whatever I am, I am as dedicated as I possibly can be to getting to the truth." She added, "Sometimes anger obscures the truth, and so I try to do so as calmly and as clearly as I can

The resurrection of Waco has been a nightmare for the Justice Department and the rst, and particularly for the Attorney General. Her c.o., erities in Congress are gearing up for new attacks, guaranteeing that the controversy will last for months. Meanwhile, a documentary filmmaker was accusing the Fst of a second set of py-rotechnic attacks yet unconfessed by the bureau. Then there was the question of whether Reno and Freeh were locked in a behind-closed-doors feud.

She was in Panama for a presidential

inauguration when the U.S. marshals marched into rat headquarters, and instantaneous leaks of the foray were regarded as her camp's first big p.r. move against Freeh since the debacle crupted two weeks ago, by the control of the co





to stake claim on the moral high ground. Reno's supporters say she deserved better.

However, she has other things to worry about. Representative Dan Burton's Committee on Government Reform (which has always favored Freeh over Reno) was sending out subpoenas and watching the new tapes for signs of illegal involvement by "observers" from the Army's supersorated to the committee of the supersoration of the s

are state-uning use Hotses-Coxy-rate assessment with a work Republicans, in fact, other and the Republicans, in fact, other and the state of the sta

that his committee form a five-person commission composed of non-office holders to handle a Waco investigation. Some in the G.D.P. want Burton to hand his material over once the commission is up and running. Says a G.D.P. leadership aide: "We've got as much out of this as we can politically. We can beast the Whate House, and it we can be the Whate House, and it stretches on, it brings up the nut-case crowd." An investigative source says



the new disclosures are "like the Dead Sea Scrolls for the conspiracy theorists."

There is certainly a lot more unreleased material to stimulate that crowd and provide grist for an official investigation. This week, in response to a subpoena from Burton's committee, the Texas Rangers will deliver a report on the pyrotechnic rounds. The Rangers still have 24,000 lbs. of Waco evidence in their vaults, and they are under orders to turn over the material to U.S. District Judge Walter Smith Ir. once logistics are worked out. Smith is committed to opening the evidence to public scrutiny-against the advice of the Justice Department. Documentary filmmaker Michael McNulty has already examined some of the material. Last week he told TIME that a second pair of 40-mm pyrotechnic projectiles may have been used at Waco. The devices, he says, were fired as the others were-from grenade launchers-but unlike the two that the FBI admitted were fired at a concrete bunker. this second pair passed through the wooden main building of David Koresh's compound. FBI officials aren't ready to issue a categorical denial until the new investigation is completed, but they suspect McNulty is citing an inventory in which Rangers mislabeled two items as military gas projectiles. The inventory, they say, has since been corrected.

"There are a lot of legitimate questions. says Tron Brekke, an FBI spokesman, Some of the FBI's own: What exactly did HRT commander Dick Rogers understand about his latitude to make operational decisions without seeking clearance from FBI headquarters or from Reno? And why didn't FBI lawyers alert Freeh and Reno when, in February 1996, they received a memo from Quantico reporting that HRT operators had sought and received permission to attempt to gas the concrete bunker with military rounds that had "the potential for causing a fire"? And did conflicts within the federal team at Waco play any role in the decision making? Byron Sage, now retired but in 1993 the FBI negotiator at the compound, confirms seeing graffiti in the HRT Porta-Johns on the Waco front line that declared SAGE IS A DAVIDIAN. Still. Sage insists such acrimonies "had nothing to do with the final conclusion."

The Fit has been reduced to raising bureaucratic ineptitude as a defense. Danny Coulson, retired founder of the HIT, agrees: "If there was a cover-up planned, neither the documents nor the tape would ever have been located." Now, says spokesman Brekke, "we have a greater interest in finding out what happened than probably anybody." And the big question, he says the first of the transfer of the t

by John F. Dickerson/Washington, Hilary Hylton/ Austin and Richard Woodbury/Denver



The Police and the EDPs

As services for the emotionally disturbed dwindle, officers fill the gaps, sometimes with deadly results

N POLICE VERNACUIAR, GIDONE BUSCII was an "EDP"—an emotionally disturbed person. His medical records show that he believed he was directed by God to save drug addicts and exotic dancers, that his friends were prophets and that he was the messiah. When the police were called in last week, he was menacing children in a predominantly Hasidic Jewish section of Brooklyn, and he attacked the cops with a claw hammer. The police shot him to death with 12 bullets. Should they have just

maimed Busch to subdue him? New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said, "When [police] make a decision to shoot, they shoot to kill."

Giuliani took immediate political heat for the response and his predictably gruff defense of the N.Y.P.D. But the Busch shooting reflects a chronic problem, one that affects communities throughout the country. Increasingly, police action appears to be the only action that can be taken with EDIS. "Law-enforcement in the political problem."

officers are serving as front-line mentalhealth workers," says Mary Zdanowicz, executive director of the Treatment Advocacy Center, based in Virginia. "But by the time the police intercede, it's usually too late."

The potential case load is overwhelming, with 3.5 million Americans suffering from severe forms of mental illness, according to the Treatment Advoscey Center. In 1998, New York City police handled 60,000 calls to 911 regarding EPDs: The city treats approximately 344,000 people with mental inlness or substance-abuse problems, according to the city's mental-health agency. Of those, 40,000 have serious, persistent mental-

health problems. In Memphis, Tenn, police are with mental-health training, as police are with mental-health training, as police are sent to any sent to a sent t

The police officer has become a mentalhealth adjunct ever since laws passed in the

1960s required mental wards to release anyone who did not want to stay, unless he or she could be proved dangerous. Massive deinstitutionalization occurred. Since 1969, 93% of psychiatric beds have been empited across the country, and many of the mentally ill end up in the prison system or fending for themselves. Any other controls of the country of



tion is so dire that if family or friends report that an EDP is becoming violent, most mental-health workers will say, "Call the police."

In New York City, councilman Noach Dear, who represents the district where the shooting occurred, says the issue is not new to him. Across from his office, a mentally ill woman living in a small apartment almost daily flings feese out her window. "The police say they can't do anything about the police say they can't do anything about the properties of the policy." The mental-health department says it can't do anything, People look at me and say, "Why do we need you, if you can't do anything about this? It's very frustrating." — We Elsine ReverNew York

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BREAKING THE PLASTIC MOLD.

LAW ON BENDED

KNEE

Will a new federal law give religious freedom even more protection than it has now? Or will it erode other basic liberties?

By JOHN CLOUD

VERY FIRST-GRADER LEARNS THAT the Pilgrims came here to practice their religion the way they wanted. So you would think that the debate over freedom of religion was settled long ago. It wasn't. This week the Senate is ex-

pected to consider a bill called the Religious Liberty Protection Act, whose turgid name suggests that what the Pilgrims held dear is threatened in the very nation they founded. Supporters believe that government officials disrupt religious activities even today, despite the First Amendment's crystalctear language. "Congress shall make no or prohibiting the free corrcise thereof." The bill's backers say etities pass zoning

laws that keep churches out. They say children cannot wear the Star of David to school because of regulations meant to ban agan symbols. They say corones perform autopsies on those whose faith holds that the corpus is sacred. In short, without the Religious Liberty Protection Act, soys gress, "you send a message to the state [authorities] that they have carte blanche to interfere with religious practices."

The bill has broad support. It sailed through the House in July. President Clinton has said he will sign it. That support is fraying in Washington, however, as more people begin to realize that the bill's big ambitions could create unintended results.

Proponents of the law say people like Father Timothy Mockaitis need it. In April 1996, Mockaitis went to the Lane County, Ore, jailhouse to hear the confession of Conan Wayne Hale. Authorities had charged Hale with murdering three teenagers. District Attorney F. Douglass Harcleroad, thinking Hale might break down and tell all, had secretly arraned to but the confession.

The Eugene, Ore., Register-Guard learned about the recording and reported it. Oregonians were outraged. The Vatican sent a note of protest. Mockaitis sued, and won a \$25,000 settlement after a federal court said the taping was wrong, in part because it violated the 1993 federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The reasoning was that the D.A. had interfered with Mockaitis' religion by taping a sacrament. But in 1997 the Supreme Court struck down that law, saving it was too broad; Congress could not dictate terms of religious conduct to every community with a single law. So the new bill, an effort to achieve the same goals within more limited boundaries, applies only to individuals or institutions that receive federal funds or engage in interstate commerce.

Constitutional scholars disagree over whether the new bill is still too broad, and it will surely face a Supreme Court test if it will surely face a Supreme Court test if it passes. But there is a more basic problem: the law may not be needed. Mockaitis, for instance, did not need the religious-liberty law to win his case. The federal court that need in his face said the taping violated unreasonable searches and seizures, and the federal Coil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on religion. (Halle, ast it turned out, was convicted of the three murders, and the tapes, which contained only his professions of innocence,

were not used in court.) What about other reasons cited for the law? Stern of the American Jewish Congress, who helped write the bill, says Orthodox Jewish and Native American families should not have to beg officials not to perform autopsies on their relatives. He cited a case in Eagle Pass, Texas, in which a federal judge ruled in favor of an autopsy on a member of the Kickapoo tribe who

justice of the peace Martha Chacon believed might have been murdered. The judge said the state's interest in finding the truth trumped the tribe's religious concerns. In the end, though, Chacon decided not to order the autopsy; she determined that the woman had probably killed herself.

Such bureaucratic decisions may be best kept at the local level, where officials are better equipped to weigh the complex mix of a community and individual interests. Consider the case of a levels student in Gulfport, Miss., who was told he could not wear a Star of David to class. School officials said the star was sometimes used by gangs, and they did not



ne care of Church of ientology staff members IAT The church faces iminal and civil suits UTCOME Lawyers say the emands of these suits impa



THE LAW'S INTENDED CONSEQUENCE

WHO Father Timothy Mockaitis heard a jailhouse confession of Conan Wayne Hale, right in Oregon WHAT The D.A. bugged the room, hoping Hale



a suit charging that the D.A. interfered with his religion by taping a

want any such imagery in classes. The case infuriated supporters of the Religious Liberty Protection Act. Once again, however, no federal intervention was required. The local school board decided after more careful consideration to reverse itself.

In consideration to reverse tesen:
There is no doubt that the supporters of
the bill have good intentions. And they are
right in thinking that for most of the naright in thinking that for most of the naright in thinking that for most of the naright in thinking that for most of the
vowed religious claims, Judges have ruled
that Amish idsk couldn't be forced to attend school and that Seventh-Day Adventists do not have to work on Saturdays. But
that approach changed in 1990, when conservative lustice Antonin Scalia worde a Suservative lustice Antonin Scalia worde a Su-

preme Court decision that angered and frightened many religious people. In Employment Division v. Smith, Scalia said religious claims cannot be used to justify violating laws as long as those laws apply to everyone of every faith, neutrally. In the case at hand, Scalia wrote that Na.

tive Americans do not have the right to break antidrug laws even though peyote use is part of some Indian faiths.

Liberals fretted that the decision would make it easier for the government to trample on minority religions. Conservatives were worited that the Smith ruling would erode the autonomy of all religious institutions—making it easier, for instance, for a Catholic woman to sue her church to become a minister. The coalition that eventually formed in support of a new religious to the process that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Christian-right groups such as the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Christian-right groups such as Focus on the Family and deft-leaning organizations such as Americans for Democratic Action.

This odd grouping, however, is having truble staying united. The American Civil Liberties Union, which helped draft the current bill, as well as the 1980 Jaw, now opposes it unless an amendment makes clear that religious claims cannot be used to defeat civil rights laws. Givil rights advocates our concerned about such groups as the accordance of the control of the

would allow conservative Christian landlords to refuse to rent to gay people even in states with laws protecting lesbians and gays from housing discrimination.

Religious-liberty laws are in effect in seven states-Governor George W. Bush signed one in Texas in June-and they are leaving their mark on the judicial system. Last fall, for example, the State of Florida charged the Church of Scientology with criminal neglect in the death of Lisa McPherson, 36, a Scientologist in Clearwater. Fla. McPherson was in the care of church staff members for 17 days in 1995 before dying from a blood clot. Members of McPherson's family have also sued the church. Church lawyers have denied the allegation, saying injuries McPherson suffered in a car accident caused her death and the church had nothing to do with it.

Scientology is known for its aggressive litigating style, but the church's most powerful legal weapon could be Florida's religiousfreedom act. After the law glided through the legislature last year, church lawyers used it to argue that the criminal charges are illegal because they unduly burden the church and impair its right to practice religion. The lawyers have also used the law in the civil case to prevent the family from seeing notes so the prevent the family from seeing notes six the control of the church's lawyers sy the notes are religious material protected by the statute; the family believes the notes may help explain her death.

The Scientology case will probably drag on for years, but opponents of the religious-liberty bill say the case illustrates the law's unintended consequences. "It opens the door for all kinds of religious entities and in-dividuals to make creative claims," says MarcH Hamilton, a constitutional-law processor at Emory University, "Bupporters] say if you to simple bill, but it ends up being divides in our culture."

Buy One, Get One Free?

They have not elected her, but already New Yorkers want to know: Can Hillary Clinton deliver?

By KAREN TUMULTY WASHINGTON

SUALLY VOTERS WAT FOR A CANDIdate to get elected before they start demanding favors. Then again, most would-be officeholders don't share a home with the President of the U.S. And with this President a lame duck, interest groups and activists have lately decided that Hillary, the aspiring Senator from New York, is the Clinton to go to in the White House.

But it barely matters whether she can actually persuade her husband to satisfy these groups. In politics, where perceptions can mean more than facts, people have come to believe in the two-for-the-price-ofone slogan the Clintons once advertised.

That's why one Clinton's budding Senate candidacy has already created some awkward moments for the other. Take the furor over his clemency offer to 16 members of the Puerto Rican group known as the FALN. Hillary has insisted that she had "no involvement in or prior knowledge of" her husband's decision. And on Saturday she even appeared to rebuke the President with a terse written statement urging him to withdraw the offer because the terrorists had not met Clinton's condition of renouncing violence. "It's been three weeks and their silence speaks volumes. I believe the offer of clemency should be withdrawn, she said. But before she could get any political mileage from this rebuke, the White House made clear that Clinton himself had sent the same message in a letter to their lawyers the day before, saying they had until this Friday to meet his terms. Even by the Clintons' marital standards, this was a strange one: two formidable politicians trying to prove their toughness and leaving people to wonder who outmaneuvered whom.
"I don't know if she knew about the letter,"
said White House counsel office spokesman
Jim Kennedy. "I know we didn't know
about her statement."

It is possible that the sidelined President, in an effort to make his political talents useful, thought he was actually helping his wife by offering the clemency deal in the first place; the White House never really produced a convincing explanation why Clinton acted now on such a long-standing question, particularly over the unanimous objection of

federal law-enforcement agencies.

What is clear, and what her would-be constituents certainly understand, is that Hillary's value to them will never be greater

than it is now. For even if she wins, it is hard to imagine a junior Senator having nearly the clout of an ambitious candidate who happens to have the President's ear.

That is why the first signs that Hillary was being pressed into constituent service before Election Day surfaced as early as July. She showed up at a White House meeting on federal aid to New York's teaching hospitals called by one of the state's sitting Senators, Chuck Schumer. There, as Schumer put it, she "chimed in." Then last week, some pro-Israeli activists publicly urged her to seek the freedom of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard. And G.O.P. Congressman Thomas Reynolds wants her to take on the Justice Department over Cayuga Indian claims in the Finger Lakes area. Meanwhile, she has not heard the last from Puerto Rico: its New York allies are asking the First Lady to weigh in on a halfcentury-long dispute over Navy bombardment of a tiny island off the commonwealth's east coast.

Critics will be looking for signs of her influence as the Commander in Chief consid-

ers the plight of Puerto Rico's Viegues Island. Navy Secretary Richard Danzig says the live-ammo range there is "an important and irreplaceable site," vital to assuring Navy and Marine combat effectiveness. But after two stray 500-lb. bombs killed a security guard and injured four other civilians last April, the island's 9,300 residents declared that they had had enough. Nowhere have they found more sympathy than in New York, a city that has one-quarter the number of Puerto Ricans that Puerto Rico has.

Those pressing the First Lady insist it is perfectly appropriate. "If she is going to be the next U.S. Senator from New York, people are going to be looking to her for leadership on a whole array of issues." says Dennis Rivera, head of the hospital-workers union and one of her most influential backers. And where she leads, should they expect her husband to follow? Why not? It was the Clintons themselves who once boasted, "Buy one, get one -With reporting by Jay Branegan/Washington

THE ONE WHO HAS CLINTON'S EAR Interest groups in New York State, and even one Republican.

have asked the First Lady to intercede on their behalf





PUERTO RICO
Critics said they saw
Hillary's hand in the
clemency debate ove
FALN terrorists



JONATHAN POLLARD
Pro-Israeli activists
want her to take up
the case of this
convicted spy



A local Congressma wants her to get the Justice Department out of a land disput

HEWLETT-PACKARD

PRESENTS





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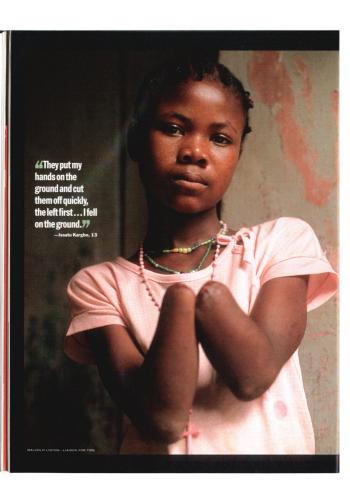
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War Wounds

In Africa, an ugly civil war leaves permanent scars

Sierra Leone's eight-year civil war has settled into an uneasy peace. But it has left a cruel legacy. At the height of the country's chaos this spring, rebel soldiers intensified an ugly ritual of amputations, seizing civilians and chopping off limbs. Human-rights groups estimate that thousands have been maimed in this fashion. Two of them told their stories to TIME'S Malcolm Linton.

cried. That night I slept in an abandoned house, and the next day I went down to the main road. A rebel saw me waiting there and took me to the Summer Time clinic [a small clinic with a nurse but no doctor.] He gave me a bowl of rice. Then the other rebels came and took away the rice. They said they would kill anyone who said a word about what had happened. I was in the clinic for a few days. Then the Red Cross came and took me to hospital.

I want to go back to school. I haven't been back since this happened. How can I write? I can't do anything except eat and drink water from a cup. Sometimes I follow my father into the forest when he cuts wood to sell in the truck park. I used to

ISSATU KARGBO IS 13, one of seven children of farmer Alimany Kargbo, toko moved last year to Samuel Twom village, about 20 miles southeast of Freetown, because of fighting in his home area. The family lives in a shack in the garden of an abandoned nouse. Last Jan. 13, Issatu woas staying with her aunt on the edge of Freetown, waiting tog for a medical checkup, when rebels overran her neighborhood:

T WAS A WEDNESDAY—A VERY NICE day with the sun shining. The rebels came to the house at around 4 in the afternoon. There were two: a man about the same age as

my father and a child soldier carrying an ax. They weren't armed, apart from the ax, and they were in ordinary clothes. There were about 15 of us. The man picked out six and took

15 of us. The man picked out six and took us to the rebels' base at Black Tank. I was frightened because I didn't know what was going to happen.

At Black Tank the man called four bother rebels to guard us. A lot of rebels were hiding in the bushes and around the houses. They had a big fire going near the verandah of the house. They ambushed the people who came past and pushed them into the fire, pointing their guss. They made them lie down in their guss. They made them lie down in Three of them died in the fire, and we, but managed to get up and walk away the they were badly burned, so maybe they died later—I don't know.

The children with me were crying. I was more frightened than before because I thought they were going to throw me into the fire. The rebels were laughing and



N FREETOWN the injured can sometimes get help from a foreign doc

making jokes, except for the man who had picked us out. His face was bad, so dark it was blue—you couldn't see any sign of laughter in it. He cut us with

the ax one by one. I was number five. The adults were begging, and the children were crying. They put my hands on the ground and cut them off quickly, the first. I didn't feel anything, or just some hing like a sting. Everything went shark, and I fell over on the ground. After a while I got up and walked a little way, but the I know what happened to the other poorle. I had no idea why they did that to me. I fall took less than half an hour.

I walked back to the house. My aunt saw me and started to cry, but one of the rebels told her he would shoot her if she

wash my clothes and cook. But now I can't do those things. I play with my younger sisters, chasing them and wrestling. I still do that.

I have friends here. They don't make jokes about my arms. They feel very sorry for me. Most of my friends are in Freetown. I want to go back there and see my aunt—just to visit, not to stay. There's no one at her house to take care of me.

[Issatu's father is humble, polite and upset. "Any time she goes somewhere with us, I want to cry because they have destroyed her looks," he says. Issatu went to Handicap International's clinic in Freetown and got a leather strap to help her hold a spoon on the end of her right arm. She smiles as she shows it off. "Before, I used to eat by holding the spoon between my arms," she says.]

ABDUL SANKOH, 27, was a teacher until last December when fighting between government and robel forces closed his school. Now he is jobbes and lives at the Murray Town amputee center in Freetown. On the morning of April 30, after hiding from the fighting for three days in the bush without food, he and another man went back to their village to look for mangoes to take to their friends:

E GOT THE MANGOES AND
were on our way back to
the bush when we met two
rebels. They stopped us at
gunpoint. They told us to
drop the mangoes, and
they tied us up.

They brought us back to the village

where more rebels—I counted 36
—were holding five others: two jownen, two children and an old iman. All of the rebels were carrying AK-47s, and some had rocket-propelled grenades. They were mostly about 35 or 40, but some were in their 20s. They looked untidy, as if they had been in the bush for a long time.

They killed the five other people they were holding one by one. The people were shouting and crying. I was sitting a few yards away, tied up back to back with my friend. There were about seven soldiers doing the killing. The others were searching the houses. I thought they were going to kill me to.

When they had finished killing the other five, they started arguing. Some wanted to kill us, but others said we should carry rice for them. My friend was a farmer, and I told them I was too. I said that because at that time, the rebels were searching for teachers and police. Then someone came up and said he knew me, although I didn't know him. I thought he

might save me, but he turned out to be the one who destroyed me. He said, "I know you. You're a teacher, and you have a friend who is a policeman." They asked me where he was, and when I said I didn't know, they told me they were going to kill me. One of them was instructed to kill me, but he refused. He said he had never killed anyone. They palled the gun from his hands and started to flog him. Then one of them said he was going to amputate my arms. I begged him not to and offered to join their group, but he refused. He called for an ax.

They pushed my right hand onto the ground. I was shouting and begging them. I watched when they cut it off. I was looking at the stump, watching the way the veins vibrated when the blood flowed out. It was very painful, and I was shouting. When they grabbed my other hand. I blacked out, so I didn't feel them cut it off. After they'd cut off both my hands, I told them, "Kill me, because I am no use in the world!" They told me I was making a noise, and they said it was because I had a mouth to talk with. And they cut off my lips. I lost consciousness. When I woke up, I could feel my lips hanging down.

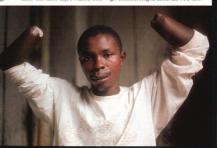
Later that same day, I walked from

The most difficult things to do now? The most important thing is the toilet affairs. I can't do it for myself, and my wife has to help me. It's embarrassing. Anothrathing is bothing a coling writing. I

er thing is bathing ... eating ... writing I can urinate for myself now with no escort. I can't dress myself. I can't pray because I can't wash. I pray only at night

when I'm going to sleep.

I ask for forgiveness when I pray. Then I ask for someone to help me get through my future life ... It could be my wife, but without money, she will just sit there beside me. With no money for our children or to assist our parents, she'll just sit there with me. Now I'm waiting to get false hands. If su pu to the government. If I don't get them, I can't do anything. If the government forgets about us, we'll take



441 can't dress myself. I can't pray because I can't wash.
I pray only at night when I'm going to sleep." 77—Abdul Sankoh, 27

my sillage—about three nulies' wall-tonot of the pacedeper bases. Then they
took me to the hospital about three days
later. A German Doctors Without Borders
doctor did the operation on my arms at
Connaught Hospital in Freetown. Aft
the operation, I slept for two days. I
was just blooking around. They were feed
ing me from a drip. It was a week before
I could eat or drink. After three weeks,
my wife came to the hospital to find me.

revenge. I can't do it myself, but I would tell my family to take revenge on the person who did this to me. We have no guns, but we have the traditional ways of revenging. I am left-handed, and it will be enough if they can just give me a prosthesis for my left arm.

The International Rescue Committee is working with Sierra Leone's victims. It is accepting contributions at 122 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10168

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WORLD

Violent Birth

East Timor's vote for nationhood is tumultuous

IN THE STREETS OF DILL, WHIGH is set to become Asia's newest capital city, days passed last week with a terrifying regularity. Mornings dawned in a foreboding calm. With the heat of middlay rumors flew-of thugs gathering, forming roadblocks, seeking labeling, forming roadblocks, seeking half-island of East Timor. By late afternoon shots were heard. At nightfull, streets were empty, most citizens stayed close to home.

Fear paralyzed much of East Timor during the week after its citizens voted to secede from Indonesia—a 99% turnout of those eligible. With nearly 80% casting ballots in favor of independence on Monday, the East Timorese could at last envision an end to the torturous era in which, since 1975, they have been an unwilling part of Indonesia. But as they waited for the votes to be counted, pro-Jakarta militias violently assumed control of much of the western part of the territory. At least four local United Nations employees were murdered, and six more may have died. Scores of citizens were hur or killed.

Many East Timorese are looking to the outside world for help. But Western governments have yet to reach a consensus on deploying force. If the U.N. decides to send in armed peacekeepers, they are not likely to arrive until later this fall. That leaves the job of restraining the militias in the hands of Indonesian forces. They have shown little inclination to stop the killing. "I don't think it would be difficult for the police to disarm the militias, but their hearts aren't in it," says a Western official. "[The militias] were brought in by the military, and there are emotional attachments preventing [the police] from taking action." Those bonds are costing lives every day. -By Nisid Hajari. Reported by Jason Tediasukmana/Jakarta and Lisa Rose Weaver/Dili

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FOOD FIGHT

The battle heats up between the U.S. and Europe over genetically engineered crops

By JEFFREY KLUGER

HE FOLSS AT MC DONALD'S COULD not have expected an especially warm reception in France, but the manure in the parking lots still must have taken them by surprise. For the past three weeks it's been hard to visit a McDonald's anywhere in France without running the risk of encountering mountains of fresh manure—as well as not-so-fresh fruit and vegetables—dumped in front of the restaurants by protesting farmers.

testing farmers. There's a lot about McDonald's that angers the farmers—its summers, its bland-angers the farmers—its summers, its bland-angers the farmers—its summers and the summer of the summer o

Around the world people are taking a closer look at the genetic makeup of what they're eating-and growing uneasy with what they see, Over the past decade, genetically modified (GM) food has become an increasingly common phenomenon as scientists in the U.S. and elsewhere have rewoven the genes of countless fruits and vegetables, turning everyday crops into über-crops able to resist frost, withstand herbicides and even produce their own pesticides. In all, more than 4,500 GM plants have been tested, and at least 40-including 13 varieties of corn, 11 varieties of tomatoes and four varieties of soybeans-have cleared government reviews.

For biotech companies such as Monsanto, based in the U.S., and Novartis AG, based in Switzerland, the rise of GM technology has meant boom times. Sales of GM seeds rose in value from \$75 million in 1995 to \$1.5 billion last year, and the crops they produce are turning up not only on produce shelves but also in processed foods

from cookies to potato chips to baby food.
But many people question whether it's
a good idea for fallible human beings to
go mucking about with the genes of other
species. It's one thing if a scientific experiment goes wrong in a lab, they say, but
something else entirely if it winds up on
your dinner plate. To date, there's nothing
to suggest that re-engineered plants have
ever done anyone any harm. Nontheliess.
portation of some CM crops, and since 1997
has required that foods that contain engineered DNA be labeled as such. Plenty of
trade watchers in Washington see the Eu-

ropean actions as one more tweak from an increasingly powerful E.U. no longer intimidated by U.S. economic might. While that may be, the fact remains that the U.S. Congress may address a labeling bill of its own this fall, and some private groups are threatening lawsuits to force the issue. Even without legal action, public opinion is turning a more skeptical eye on GM technology. "The farmers in France are right," observes Dennis Kucinich, a House Democrat from Cleveland, Ohio, who stumbled across the GM-food issue in the spring, and is turning it into something of a cause. "There's nothing more personal

than food."

If the outcry in
France indeed portends

global trouble, it's by no means clear whether it ought to. For all the controversy that GM technology is causing, the fact is that biotech companies have succeeded in dreaming up some extraordinary plants. Monsanto, which produces the hugely popular herbicide Roundup, has made just as big a hit with its line of genetically modified crops that are immune to the Roundup poison-thanks to a gene that company scientists tweezed out of the common petunia and knitted into their food plants. Other GM crops have been designed to include a few scraps of DNA from a common bacterium, rendering the plants toxic to leaf-chewing insects but not to humans

Such souped-up plants are understandably popular with farmers, for whom even a slight increase in yield can mean a big increase in profits. Last year in the U.S., 35% of the soy crop and 42% of the cotton crop were grown with GM seeds. Says Karen Marshall, a Monsanto spokes-

woman: "These really do work and have tremendous benefits to growers."

But what happens when they don't work? Several years ago, a company developed a sovbean with some genetic threads borrowed from the Brazil nut in an attempt to boost the bean's amino-acid content. The soy began acting like the nut-so much so that it churned out not just amino acids but also chemicals that can trigger allergies in nut-sensitive consumers. The company quickly scrapped the product. Last spring a study published by Cornell University showed that pollen from some strains of corn with built-in pesticides can kill the larva of the Monarch butterfly.



a French McDonald's

a pest by nobody's standards. "When butterflies start dying," says Kucinich, "I think it's fair to start asking questions."

Overseas, they have been asking them for some time. In recent years Europeans have become increasingly jumpy about bad food—and with good reason, the outbreak of mad-cow disease in 1996, the appearance of dioxin-contaminated call or contaminated cans of Cosa-Caul of Cost of the contaminated cans of Cosa-Caul of Cost of Cosa-Caul of Cost o

Since 1990 the E.U. has approved the

sale of 18 GM products. (The U.S. Government views GM components in foods as mere additives and thus does not require the FDA to approve them. Instead, it subiects them to a less formal review, a relatively low high-bar that's easy to clear.) This year the E.U. banned the importation of nonapproved GM corn. In the U.S., GM strains are mixed with ordinary strains, so the country's entire corn export to Europe was effectively outlawed. "Until we have new rules. we don't want new substances released," says Jürgen Trittin, Germany's Environment Minister. "It's a de facto moratorium.

But one country's montorium is amber country's protectionism, and the U.S. is suspicious of Europe's actions. Tension between the U.S. and the E.U. was already running high this summer after Europe decided to continue a ban on hormone-raised U.S. beef and the U.S. of the U.S. the U.S. of

The transatlantic food fight will probably be high on the agenda of the World Trade Organization when it meets in November—good news for companies like Monsanto. Two years ago, CEO Robert Sha-

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

your food. Everything from meat to fruit to baby food is developed with the aid of genetic manipulation. Since the Federal Government sees GM components as mere additives, they require little government oversight. Even the simplest meal is loaded with small DNA tricks

PPETIZER

ome tomato juice is made from
pmatoes containing enzymes fr

year ago, Monsanto stock perched at a lofty 63; today it's mired in the upper 30s. Events in Washington could make things worse. Since lawmakers have not yet addressed the labeling question, private groups are hoping to take the lead. Organizations like the Sierra Club and Greenpeace, along with lewish and Mus-

piro gambled big on biotech, spinning off

the company's chemical division to focus

on the new science. While the move made

Monsanto a Wall Street darling for a while,

investors aren't as sweet on it anymore. A

lim groups, have waded in, lobbying the Ppa for labeling and in some cases filing suits to compel it. Their legal claim is boldstead of the southeast compel in the search of the search

about GM products.
A scientist noted the "profound difference" between genetically engineered and traditional crops—though he stressed that different needn't mean dangerous.
Still, it's becom-

ing clear in Washington that the labeling problem is not going away. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Clickman admits that ultimately the activists will probably prevail. Glickman hopes that labels will not be written to alarm consumers but instead to in-

form them, letting them know that while a product was manufactured with the aid of genetic techniques,

it can also, say, lower cholesterol. For now, the most GM foes can hope to push through an agri-friendly Congress is a proposal for voluntary labeling that biotech companies would be free to honor or ignore. In a demand-driven market, however, they would ignore it at their peril. In Europe the Gerber baby-food company. a division of Novartis, gave in to anti-GM sentiments and announced that its products would no longer contain genetically modified ingredients. "This decision was not a safety issue," insists Novartis spokesman Mark Hill, "but rather a response to preferences expressed by our consumers." Not for the last time, to be sure, it's consumers who will have the fi--Reported by James Carney and nal word Dick Thompson/Washington, Bruce Crumley/Paris and Maggie Sieger/Chicago

A dinner of park
and providing
to clearlists
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ENTREE

Pork loins could come from hogs treated with human-growth hormones to help them get bigger faster Potatoses could michude genes from the Bacillia thuringionsis, a naturally cocurring hac fermin toxic to insect socurring hac fermin toxic to insect socurring hac fermin toxic to insect Squash may be inoculated with watermelon- and succhini-virus genes to make the squash virus resistant The corn in corn bread and other foods could contain a firety gene, to tag other implanted genes to tag other implanted genes

ESSERT
he milk in that innocent-lo

pudding may have been drawn from cows treated with genetically engineered bovine growth hormone to help boost milk production





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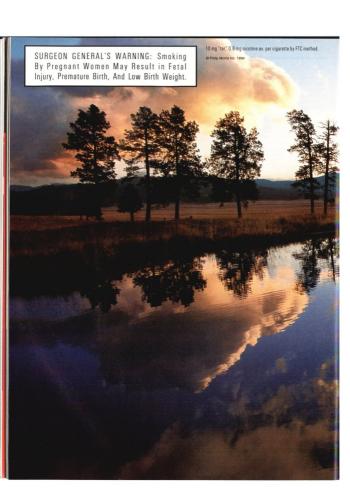
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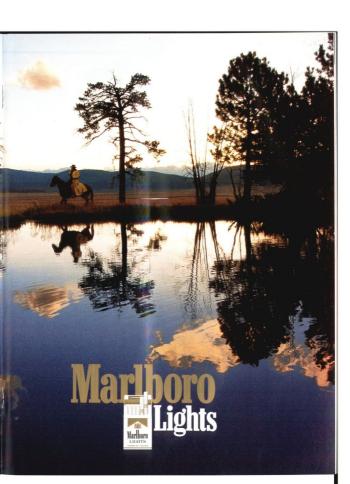
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Rent-a-Jet Cachet

A clever new ownership scheme is making private jets more accessible to your average millionaire

By ADAM ZAGORIN WASHINGTON

USED TO RIDE ABOUND WITH MY GRANDfather in a horse and buggy," remembers Katherine Buffett, 93, of her childhod on a Nebraska farm. "Sometimes he would let me drive the horse myself." These days, when Mrs. Buffett hunkers down in her Hawker 1000 jet, the pilot does not offer her the reins. But he always gets her back home to Omaha on time.

Katie Buffett has joined a growing, albeit still élite, list of Americans who have opted out of the joys of flying with com-mercial airlines. She recently bought a share in a private plane because her favorite nephew told her it would be a good idea. The nephew, billionaire investor Warren Buffett, thinks many more people will pay to avoid cooling their heels at gates and cramping their backsides into uncomfortable seats in the air. Buffett spent \$725 million last year to acquire Executive Jet Aviation, operator of NetJets, which created a business in fractional ownership of aircraft. With revenues projected at \$900 million for 1998 and climbing an average rate of 35% annually, the company instantly became the fastest-growing division in Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway empire, which includes stakes in American Express and Coca-Cola and ownership of Geico insurance.

Executive Jet is the brainchild of Richard Santulli, 54, a former leasing specialist from Goldman Sachs who still runs the company. What Santulli figured out is this: How many jets and how many owners do you need to ensure that each owner



can be guaranteed a jet with as little as four hours' notice, anytime? Priced to make a buck, of course. Customers do not buy a particular plane so much as the right to

play on a jet of the class they have purchased. Net-Jets owners can purchase a fraction of a plane up to the whole thing and get a proportional share of its air time. A one-eighth share of, say, a Cessna Citation V Ultra goes for \$835,000, and each hour of occupied flight will cost you \$1,242. Management and other fees are around \$7,600 a month. Santulli's operation got lift because many companies couldn't afford—or could-

n't justify—owning a jet outright. Yet as commercial service deteriorated, they also found themselves at the mercy of big airlines. Fractional ownership splits the difference: expensive, but cheaper than full board, and the convenience helps

compensate for the cost.





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GULFSTREAM IV-SP

COST FOR 1/8 SHARE MANAGEMENT FEES PASSENGERS 18

HOURLY RATE \$2,89

RANGE 4,500 mi SPEED 560 m.p.

Just try flying on commercial airlines from Mobile, Ala., to Moline, Ill., nonstop. Net-Jet offers everything from small Cessna Citation S/IIs up to the new Boeing Business Jet, a reconfigured 737.

Executive let commands more than 75% of the fractional-ownership marketdown from 100%. Its success has lured a couple of jetmakers into the game, including Raytheon, which sells Beech and Hawker jets. Bombardier, a leading competitor, is adding fractional owners at a rate of more than 100 a year; it has more than 350 clients using 65 Learjet and Challenger aircraft. A booming economy continues to enlarge the ranks of fractional flyers. Over the past 31/2 years, Executive Jet has ordered 590 aircraft, paying \$9.75 billion and expanding into Europe and Asia.

Buffett, a famously frugal rich guy, found the concept so compelling that first he got rid of Berkshire's jet, the Indefensible, and then he bought Executive Jet. It's one of the few luxuries he can justify. "I sleep in a bed, you sleep in a bed; I go to McDonald's, you go to McDonald's, he told TIME. "For most things in life, being rich just isn't that much of an advantage. The one area where money has made a difference for me is the ability to travel efficiently and do things that would otherwise be impossible.

Like a couple of months ago, when he flew on a Gulfstream IV-SP to London. had lunch in Frankfurt and dinner near Paris (presumably not at McDonald's), then returned to Boston for a board meeting of Gillette, another major Berkshire holding-all within three days. Says Buffett, fractional-jet salesman: "Difficult to do that flying commercial." Aunt Katie would agree.

A Theater Very Near You

A glut of fancy new megaplexes could spoil the happy ending for the big movie-house chains

By DANIEL EISENBERG

ICTURE THIS: AT GENERAL CINEMA'S Premium theater in suburban Chicago, the \$15 luxury cinematic experience starts with valet parking. After the concierge escorts you to a leather recliner, a waiter is on hand to mix up a mar-

tini and serve "previews like shrimp cocktail and "feature presentations" (get it?) like prime rib. "It's like watching a movie with all the comforts of home but better service," says Mark Kanter, a regular at the luxury venue

In a business famous for stale popcorn, rickety seats and sticky floors, firstclass cinemas may sound like a bad joke. But with a surfeit of mammoth megaplexes filling cities and suburbs, theater owners seem willing to try anything to make their marquees stand apart from the crowd. General Cinema is teaming up with Robert Redford to launch a Sundance

chain of art houses. While Americans have flocked to the flicks in record numbers this summer, movie theaters are breaking ground at an even greater pace. Over the past five years the number of screens in the U.S. has soared 40%, to almost 35,000, according to the National Association of Theatre Owners. And since every town with an economic-development plan sees the movies as some kind of retail miracle, the number may reach 40,000 before the building spree ends. Yet no matter how many geeks go to see a Star Wars film 17 times, it's doubtful they can fill all the seats. This could be a tearjerker for the accountants.

The modern megaplex doesn't come cheap. Even though it tends to attract more patrons willing to shell out for those \$6 bags of popcorn, each snazzy new location,

a la livie

complete with stadium seating (for unobstructed views) and ear-shattering digital sound, costs in the range of \$15 million to \$25 million. Moreover, theaters still retain only 50% of ticket revenues, handing the rest over to the studios and relying on concessions for the big bucks. Add to that the fiscal drain of shutting down "older" multi-

plexes (relics around for a decade), and it's no wonder that the bottom lines of leaders like AMC, Loews Cineplex and Carmike are getting bad reviews. "It's going to be ugly," says analyst David Londoner at Schroder & Co. For some, it already is.

United Artists Theatre Group, which runs more than 2,000 screens across the country, has recently been working with bankers to avoid defaulting on hundreds of millions of dollars in loans: it blames its woes on declining attendance and



are a new moviegoing gambit

high real estate costs. To get a sense of a saturated market, take in a show in Ontario, Calif., where rivals AMC and Edwards Theatres have set up megaplexes with a combined 52 screens practically across the street from each other. While both theaters claim to make a profit, neither is happy. Apparently, though, the rest of the industry hasn't learned its lesson: developers in Chicago are building two neighboring theaters in a simi lar face-off. Says Jeff Blake, president of worldwide distribution at Columbia Pictures: Building screens at \$1 million each and closing theaters that aren't fully amortized has to hurt.

Most of the chains, though, claim they are feeling no pain. "We don't just redivide the pie, we enlarge it," argues Phil Zacheretti, a senior vice president at industry leader Regal Cinemas, a privately held behemoth with 4,000 screens. Yet even AMC, the aggressive, \$900 million-a-year pioneer of megaplexes, based in Kansas City, Mo., is scaling down some of its 30-screen locations. "When does the big wave of capital expenditure end and we get to see some return on the investment?" asks Stewart Halpern, a senior analyst at ING Barings, who remains cautiously bullish. "That point seems to keep getting pushed off further and further." And if they keep putting up more theaters, profits could remain a coming attraction for quite some time. -With reporting by Maggie Sieger/ Chicago and James Willworth Los Angeles THE LOVE LETTER RTEENTH THE MUHMY THREE SEASONS

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THE GENERAL'S PAUGHTER RUNAWAY APLINGTON ROAD

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Brand New Bodies

Ah, the whiff of burning flesh! What to do when a tattoo seems too tame

By JEFFREY RESSNER LOS ANGELES

HE PUNGENT AROMA IN A LOS ANGELES salon called Puncture is reminiscent of burnt popcorn. "That is a hell of a smell!" yelps Daren Gardner, 28, whose lanky body lies quivering on a medical-examination table. The odor is actually coming from Gardner's skin, as he submits to the latest trend catching on among tattoo and piercing devotees; branding, Body artist Todd Murray torches a small square of stainless steel using a propane flame, then lines up his shot like a pool shark with a cue, swiftly applying the redhot metal in what's called a "kiss of fire, one of 10 strikes necessary to finish the job. "This is amazing," gasps Gardner, balling his fists while the scorching marks are applied, "If I could bottle this feeling up, I would give it away.

Welcome to the strange world of body modification, or "bod-mod," in which the human form serves as a personal canvas to be cut, poked, burned, stretched and adorned. It's a world in which terms like journey and enlightenment are used to describe acts of self-mutilation that would make even Quentin Tarantino cringe, a subculture combining tribal spirituality with kinky sex and a dash of circus sideshow. It may seem weird

but it has a long tradition: in November the American Museum of Natural History in New York City will present "Body Art: Marks of Identity," an exhibition surveying 4.000 years of skin decoration Branding is, well, a

hot trend largely due to Fakir Musafar, 69, a former ad executive who calls himself a

LIZARD MAN-Sprague is still waiting for a tail



shaman and devotes his life to bod-mod. along with other more fantastic practices like O-Kee-Pa, a mystical Native American body-suspension ceremony. Musafar started a California state-licensed branding school in 1992 and has spread his philosophy through a website and a quarterly magazine called Body Play. He claims that branding is now administered by some 50 people in the Western world and could hit the mainstream in the way piercing did a few years ago.

Keith Alexander, who works out of a New York City shop that bills itself as "the world's largest fetish emporium," estimates he's seared more than 150 skin signs over the past five years. "People need memorable symbols when they pass from one stage of life to another. he says. "Some get a brand at the end of a divorce, others on their birthday." Many of

his clients are punk rockers and S&M aficionados. About half, he says, are fraternity members,

including African-American frats that have used branding for years, sometimes choosing slave designs to connect with their ancestors. While branding marks are not as detailed as tattoos (and can hurt more-though no worse than a bad sunburn, say enthusiasts), for some they have

more ritualistic power. "Whether you're a teenager or a 60-year-old executive, there appears to be a need for body rituals that aren't provided for in our society, says Musafar, Yet Armando

Favazza, a University of

Missouri psychiatry professor and author of Bodies Under Siege, thinks it's rare when people find deep meanings in branding: 'It's a faddish sort of thing, meant to shock or provide a sexual turn-on." In a few cases it may be therapeutic: Favazza says abused children may later undergo alterations "to reclaim control over their bodies" and forge "a mark of distinction to raise self-esteem.

Even branding is tame compared with

more extreme bod-mod. ranging from people who have their tongues split to some Star Trek fanatics who have supposedly tried to look like a Klingon. Then there's Erik Sprague, 27, of Albany, N.Y., who has spent the past several years trying to turn himself into a lizard. So far he has had Teflon implants to enlarge his forehead and filed his teeth into fangs, while covering his body with tat-



mod fan with her new tongue

toos of reptilian scales. Musafar is scornful of such "show-biz" decoration. "These people have gone way overboard with hotel-room surgery," he says. Doctors warn of possible infection and other dangers of such procedures. "From a medical point of view, none of these things have a justification," says Glenn Kane, an emergency-medicine specialist at L.A.'s Century City Hospital, "though they may from a social point of view." Daren Gardner regards his brand-a large infinity symbol-as a sign of everlasting devotion to his wife Amanda. "What I'm looking for is an emotional experience that goes beyond where we all stand," he says. The pain is very short and intense; the ornament is forever." -With reporting by Edward Barnes/New York

The End Is Here, Pt. 6

Revelation not enough for you? Here's a novel account of Doomsday

By WALTER KIRN



THINGS ARE NOT LOOKING particularly good for the late great planet Earth. Things are looking very, very bad. Two hundred million demonic horsemen are galloping across the smoky skies, and a third of the world's people will be slain-a third of those who re-

main, that is, following the recent Christian Rapture, which has literally snatched believers from cars and offices and carried them off bodily to heaven. Among those left behind to battle evil as part of the rag-tag "Tribulation Force" are Rayford Steele, a former commercialairline pilot, and Cameron ("Buck") Williams, publisher of the cyberjournal The Truth. Their enemy: one Nicolae Carpathia, former U.N. Secretary-General. current Global Community Potentate and-some believe-the Antichrist.

That's the narrative setup for Assassins, the sixth and latest installment in the startlingly popular Left Behind series by co-authors Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, two men who are doing for Christian fiction what John Grisham did for courtroom thrillers. Within three weeks of its publication, the apocalyptic action thriller was No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list-a list that generally doesn't even count sales by the nation's Christian bookstores. So wildly anticipated was Assassins among LaHaye and Jenkins' faithful fans that at midnight on the morning of its release, a line of nearly 1,000 buyers formed outside the Jesus Chapel Discount Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz. And at a speed even Satan's horsemen might envy. Assassins' publisher, Tyndale House, has decided to add 650,000 copies to its millionstrong first printing.

Assassins' authors, whose end-times shoot-'em-ups have spawned a website and



a movie deal and earned them millions of dollars, prefer to view their books' appeal in less secular terms. "People," says LaHaye, "are beginning to realize that something in this world is happening that has never happened before. The technology is going out of sight, one-world mania seems to be gripping the world." A self-described "prophecy scholar" and minister for more than 50 years, LaHaye, 73, concerns himself less with the books' prose than with their biblical underpinnings, turning ancient references to plagues and famines, wars and storms into crisp, modern plot points, "I



Their Kingdom Comes With sales booming, LaHaye and Jenkins

,			
Left Behind, 1995	2 million		
Tribulation Force, 1996	1.3 million		
Nicolae, 1997	1.1 million		
Soul Harvest, 1998	1.1 million		
Apollyon, Feb. 1999	950,000		
Assassins, Aug. 1999	950,000*		

LAHAYE AND JENKINS split duties into theological plotting and writing

prepare a 30-to-50-page proposal, with Scripture teachings," he says. "Then lerry comes along, I make suggestions about characters, and Jerry puts them together into

Jenkins, 49, is also a man on a mission. "We've had many unsaved people say they have accepted Christ because of reading Left Behind or one of the other books." The author of 130 books. he cut his literary teeth writing as-told-to memoirs for pro athletes such

as Nolan Ryan and Walter Payton. The Left Behind books are his passion, though. Of the Rapture and Second Coming, he says, "We believe it could happen today or it could happen a thousand years from now." He resists the notion that his novels exploit today's premillennial anxiety. "The books don't mention any date whatsoever. We're not talking about the millennium. We're not talking about Y2K.

Assassins, like its predecessors in the se-ries, is set in the indefinite near future, and for all the story's cosmic import, the tone is curiously homey, if not slightly xenophobic. The fugitive all-American heroes of the Tribulation Force, linked by the Internet in their desperate battle against insidious Mr. Bigs, may as well be the reader's next-door neighbors. It's easy to picture them, pre-Apocalypse, eating their Wheaties, fertilizing their lawns and changing the oil in their Ford Explorers. As for the books' Jewish characters, most are converts to Christianity. And though the Force carries out its operations in South Africa, France and Israel, its headquarters is in Illinois.

Fighting Satan from tornado country makes for a strange fulfillment of prophecy but certainly an accessible one. The odd achievement of the Left Behind books is to render the unimaginable familiar-often absurdly so. Who ever imagined. for example, combatting the archfiend with handguns and encrypted e-mail? Still, fans are hooked. They can smell the sulfur, hear the hoofbeats, Kellie Tolson, 40, who directs a hospital child-care center in Tucson, Ariz., can't get enough of LaHaye and Ienkins' work. And she's not so sure the novels are fiction. "I think the books are so real." she says, "that Left Behind could happen today, this minute, to all of us." -Reported by Andrea Sachs/New York

SMART GENES?

A new study sheds light on HOW MEMORY WORKS and raises questions about whether we should use genetics to make people brainier

By MICHAEL D. LEMONICK

HE SMALL, BROWN, FURRY CREAture inside a cage in Princeton University's molecular-biology department looks for all the world like an ordinary mouse. It sniffs around, climbs the bars, burrows into wood shavings on the floor, eats, eliminates, sleeps. But put the animal through its paces in a testing lab, and it quickly becomes evident that this mouse is anything but ordinary. One after another, it knocks off a variety of tasks designed to test a rodent's mental capacities-and almost invariably learns more quickly, remembers what it learns for a longer time and adapts to changes in its environment more flexibly than a normal mouse.

This is a supermouse, no doubt about it, though it didn't get its better brain by coming from another world. It was engineered by scientists at Princeton, M.I.T. and Washington University, who cleverly al-

tered its DNA—or, more precisely, that of list genetic forbears—in ways that changed the reactions between neurons deep within its tiny cranium. The result, way its creators, is a strain of mouse (which they nick-named "Doogle," after the prececious lead character of the old TV show Doogle Houser, M.D.) that is smarter than his dim-witted cousins. Not only that, the scrientists wrote in last week's issue of the journal Nature, "our results suggest that only the properties of the power of the po

gered an avalanche of criticism from many of their colleagues, who called their conclusions unwarranted and farfetched. And it's easy to understand why. The idea that intelligence is rooted in the genes has long been an inflammatory notion—witness the charges of racism put to Richard Herristein and Charles Murray, authors of The Bell Curve, their controversial study of 10 and race. Beyond that, the very concept of



HOW BUILDING A BETTER MOUSE COULD POTENTIALLY BI

Adding more of a single gene ...

The gene NR2B helps build a protein called NMDA, which acts as a receptor for specific chemical signals. These chemical signals train brain cells to fire in repeating patterns; the patterns are what we experience as memories



found inside the brains of mice and humans, is crucial to learning: short-term memory is transformed there into permanent memory

... opens lots of tiny gates...

The NR2B part of NMDA receptors is plentiful in the hippocampus of young mice but drops off drastically after sexual maturity. Scientists believe that by genetically boosting NR2B in adults, they can give mature animals the learning skills of youngsters



1 Without two independent signals, the NMDA receptor remains blocked



2 One signal is a glutamate molecul released by a neighboring cell

tists: memory is absolutely crucial to our consciousness. Says Janellen Huttenlocher, a professor of psychology at the University of Chicago: "There's almost nothing you do, from perception to thinking, that doesn't draw continuously on your memory."

It can't be otherwise, since there's really no such thing as the present. As you read this sentence, the sentence that went before is already a second or two in the past, the first line of this story went by minutes ago. Yet without a memory of what's been said, none of what you are now reading makes the slightest sense. The same is true for our lives as a whole.

Memory provides personal context, a sense of self and a sense of familiarity with people and surroundings, a past and present and a frame for the future.

But even as psychologists and brain researchers have learned to appreciate memory's central role in our mental lives, they have come to realize that memory is not a single phenomenon. Wed onto thave a memory system in the brain, say James McGaugh, director of the Genter for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory at the University of California, Irvine. "We have memory agtestens, each playing a different role."

right, these different systems work together seamlessly. If you're taking a bicycle ride, for example, the memory of how to operate the bike comes from one set of neurons; the memory of how to get from here to the other

side of town comes from another; the nervous feeling you have left over from taking a bad spill last time out comes from still another. Yet you are never aware that your mental experience has been assembled, bit by bit, like some invisible edifice inside your brain.

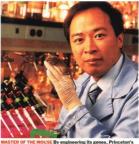
And brain researchers might never has picked up on the fragmentary nature of memory without their studies of people whose memory has been damaged by illness or injury. The most celebrated such individual is H.M. In 1953, when he was 27, he had drastic brain surgery to cure severe epilepsy. The operation cured his epilepsy,

but removing parts of his brain's temporal olose, including a structure called the hippocampus, destroyed his ability to form a reasonably good short-term memory—a reasonably good short-term memory—a reasonably good short-term memory—a reasonable good short-term memory whatsoever of having met the person. In fact, H.M. has no permanent memory of anything that happened after his control of anything that happened after his person in fact, H.M. has no permanent memory of anything that happened after his control of anything that happened after his person in the property of anything that happened after his person in the person of anything that happened after his person in the person of anything that happened after his person of anything that happened after his person of anything that happened after his person his person of anything that happened after his person his perso

from the mirror bears only a passing resemblance to the young man he knows himself to be.

That sort of impairment has convinced scientists that the medial temporal lobe and hippocampus are key in transforming shortterm memories into permanent ones, and also that permanent memories are stored somewhere else; otherwise, H.M. would have lost them too.

son them to consider the consideration of the consideration psychologist Brenda Milner proved that H.M. can from new memories of a very specific sort. For many days running, she asked him to trace a design while looking in a mirror. As far as H.M. knew, the task was a brand-new one each titune he confronted it. Yet as the time he confronted it. Yet as the may be considered to the consideration of the cons



MASTER OF THE MOUSE By engineering its genes, Princeton's Tsien gave this "Doogie" improved memory and learning skills

ENFIT PEOPLE





3 The other is a change in electric potential, triggered within the cell



through channel



4 Unblocked by the signals, calcium flows in, helping to form a memory

... that make mice "smarter"...

Genetically altered mice consistently outperformed control mice in six tests of learning and memory; their brain cells also showed increased sensitivity to new stimuli



der opaque liquid: the altered "Doogie" mice ered where it was from one run to the next



... and may help humans someday

While no one is yet proposing to alter the human NR2B gene. scientists are studying the idea of creating drugs to boost its activity. That could mean new therapies for learning disabilities and memory problems, perhaps even helping Alzheimer's patients

TIME Graphic by Ed Gabel and Joe Zeff

consciously remembered-memory. People who suffer from Alzheimer's disease exhibit the same sort of behavior-and it's the medial temporal lobe that is first affected by this devastating disease.

In patients with Huntington's disease, it's the part of the brain called the basal ganglia that's destroyed. While these victims have perfectly intact explicit memory systems, they can't learn new motor skills. An Alzheimer's patient can learn to draw in a mirror but can't remember doing it; a Huntington's patient can't do it but can remember trying to learn. Yet another region of the brain, an almond-size knot of neural tissue known as the amygdala, seems to be crucial in forming and triggering the recall of a special subclass of memories that is tied to strong emotion, especially fear. The hippocampus allows us to remember having been afraid; the amygdala evidently calls up the goosebumps that go along with each such memory.

These are just some of the major divisions. Within the category of implicit (a.k.a. nondeclarative) memory, for example, lie the subcategories of associative memory-the phenomenon that famously led Pavlov's dogs to salivate at the sound of a bell, which they had learned to associate with food-and of habituation, in which we unconsciously file away unchanging features of the environment so we can pay closer attention to what's new and different upon encountering a new experience.

Within explicit, or declarative, memory, on the other hand, there are specific subsystems that handle shapes, textures, sounds, faces, names-even distinct sys-

tems to remember nouns vs. verbs. All of these different types of memory are ultimately stored in the brain's cortex, within its deeply furrowed outer layer-a component of the brain dauntingly more complex than comparable parts in lesser species. Experts in brain imaging are only beginning to understand what goes where, and how the parts are reassembled into a coherent whole.

HAT SEEMS TO BE A single memory is actually a complex construction. Think of a hammer, and your brain hurriedly retrieves the tool's name. its appearance, its function, its heft and the sound of its clang, each extracted from a different region of the brain. Fail to connect a person's name with his or her face. and you experience the breakdown of that assembly process that many of us begin to experience in our 20s-and that becomes downright worrisome when we reach our 50s.

It was this weakening of memory and the parallel loss of ability to learn new things easily that led Princeton molecular biologist Joe Tsien to the experiments reported last week. "This age-dependent loss of function," he says, "appears in many animals, and it begins with the onset of sexual maturity.

What's happening when the brain forms memories-and what fails with aging, injury and disease-involves a phenomenon known as "plasticity." It's obvious that something in the brain changes as we learn and remember new things, but

it's equally obvious that the organ doesn't change its overall structure or grow new nerve cells wholesale. Instead, it's the connections between new cells-and particularly the strength of these connectionsthat are altered by experience. Hear a word over and over, and the repeated firing of certain cells in a certain order makes it easier to repeat the firing pattern later on. It is the pattern that represents each specific memory.

How this reinforcement happens was a puzzle for much of this century, until 1949, when Canadian psychologist Donald Hebb came up with a related notion: since most memories consist of a group of disparate elements coming together-the hammer again-something more must be happening than just an electrical signal in one brain cell setting off a response in another. Something in the brain must be acting as a "coincidence detector," taking biochemical note that two nerve cells are firing simultaneously and coordinating two different sets of information.

Over the past decade or so, neurophysiologists have been focusing in on a particular molecule they believe could well be at least one version of Hebb's coincidence detector. Called N-methyl Daspartate, or NMDA, this substance sits at the ends of the dendrites, the branchlike projections that protrude from nerve and brain cells, waiting to respond to incoming signals. Like other receptor molecules, NMDA reacts to a chemical cue-in the case of learning and memory formation, glutamate-emitted by the axon from a neighboring cell.

But unlike other receptors, NMDA doesn't find this signal sufficient. It must

₹TI

also receive an electrical discharge from its own cell. Only when both cells are talking at once does the NMD receptor turn on. It then permits calcium ions to flow into the host cell, which somehow—no one knows the details yet—makes the cell easier to turn on next time around. This phenomenon, known as long-term poten-

tiation, is believed to be the essence of one type of memory formation. NMDA's role in learn-

modula store in earning and memory isn't just theoretical. It has been known for years that blocking NMDA receptors with drugs, or knocking them out completely at the genetic level, makes animals learning-disabled, even amnesiae. Administering drugs that stimulate the receptor, conversely, tends to improve memory.

Tsien and his team took the next logical step. "A decade ago," says Stanford nerrorpsychiatrist Dr. Robert Malenka, "if you had asked, Would it be possible to manipulate a from smulfing a new higher cognitive function like learning and

memory by changing a single molecule? most scientists would have looked at you as if you were crazy."

Yet that's just what Tsien & Co. did, focusing not just on the NMDA receptor but on a particular component of it. Called NR2B, it's very active in young animals (which happen to be good at learning), less active in adults (who aren't), and is found mostly in the forebrain and hippocampus (where explicit, long-term memories are formed). The researchers spliced the gene that creates NR2B into the DNA of ordinary mouse embryos to create the strain they called Doogie. Then they ran the mice through a series of standardized tests-sort of a rodent sat. In one, the mice were given a paw shock while in a box; after a few rounds, they showed signs of fear from just being in the box, having learned that a shock was likely to follow. They learned in similar fashion to be afraid when a bell sounded-a variation on Pavlov's dog experiments. In each case, the Doogies learned faster than normal mice. The same happened with a novel-object test: after becoming familiar with two plastic toys, the Doogies would show special interest when one was replaced; normal mice tended to be equally curious about a familiar object and a new one.

The altered mice grow up looking and acting just like ordinary mice, with no evidence of seizures or convulsions, according to Tsien. That's critical. The NMDA receptor shows up throughout the brain, and though calcium is crucial to learning



A TASTE FOR THE NEW One sign of an improved memory is the mouse's preference for snuffing a newly introduced object over one it has already been exposed to

and memory, too much of it can lead to cell death. That's what happens during a stroke: when brain cells are deprived one one of the consequent they release huge amounts of gluoness. The consequent is sufficient to the consequent of the consequence of the cons

Premature cell death isn't the only possible complication. Stanford's Robert Malenka has shown that the NMDA receptor is involved in sensitizing the brain to drugs like occaine, heroin and amphetamines, and others are investigating its role in triggering chronic pain—two more indications that it may not be wise to try to fool Mother Nature.

It will be a while before such dangers arise, though, and—as cancer researchers have discovered all too often—it isn't even certain that what works in mice will work in people. Tsien and his colleagues believe it's not unreasonable to think it will. "The NMDA receptor in humans is nearly identical to the receptor in mice, rats, cats

and other animals," he says. "We believe it's highly likely that it plays a similar role in humans."

Even so, Tsien has no plan to try tinkering with human genes—nor could he under current ethical guidelines. Drugs that can boost the action of the NR2B molecule, however, are not only ethical

but already being contemplated. "Princeton has applied for a use patent for this gene," says Tsien, acknowledging his contacts with drugmakers, "although we wouldn't try to

patent the gene itself. There remains the nagging question of what it means precisely to say that Tsien & Co. have created a smarter mouse. "What is it that is being tested?" asks Gerald Fischbach, director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. "That's the problem with mouse behavior. It's not clear that we're talking about the same thing when we talk about learning

in a rodent and learning in a human."
Tsien concedes that using the emotive word intelligence in the paper was
use to generate controvers, "We really
don't mean to suggest," he explains, "shim
intelligence. But I would argue that problem solving is clearly part of intelligence,
and learning and memory are crucial to
problem solving, And these mice are better learners, with better memories, than
other mice."

But Tsien doesn't claim that he and his colleagues have found the unique genetic key to intelligence or even to memory. "It's likely that brain plasticity involves many molecules," he says. "This is just one of them." On the other hand, he asserts-and his critics would not disagree-that "intelligence does arise out of biology, at least in part." How much remains the great question. Whatever the answer, little Doogie surely represents an important step in unraveling what role our genes play in constructing not just memory but all the other attributes of the human mind. And clearly he won't be the -With reporting

by David Bjerklie and Alice Park/New York, J. Madeleine Nash/Chicago and Dick Thompson/ Washington

IF WE HAVE IT. **DO WE USE I**'

Science careers forward, and ethics tries to catch up. Both impose choices that can change our lives

By NANCY GIBBS

E'VE SEEN THESE VISIONS GLINTING in the distance for some time-the prospect that one day parents will be able to browse through gene catalogs to special-order a hazel-eyed, redheaded extrovert with perfect pitch. Leave aside for the moment whether scientists actually found an "IQ gene" last week or the argument over what really constitutes intelligence. Every new discovery gives shape and bracing focus to a debate we have barely begun. Even skeptics admit it's only a matter of time before these issues become real. If you could make your kids smarter, would you? If everyone else did, would it be fair not to?

It's an ethical quandary and an economic one, about fairness and fate, about vanity and values. Which side effects would we tolerate? What if making kids smarter also made them meaner? What if only the rich could afford the advantage? Does God give us both the power to re-create ourselves and the moral muscles to resist? "The time to talk about it in schools and churches and magazines and debate societies is now," says bioethicist Arthur Caplan of the University of Pennsylvania. "If you wait, five years from now the gene doctor will be hanging out the MAKE A SMARTER BABY sign down the street.

What makes the conversation tricky is that we're already on the slippery slope. Doctors can screen fetuses for genetic diseases like cystic fibrosis and Duchenne muscular dystrophy; one day they may be able to treat them in utero. But correcting is one thing, perfecting is another. If doctors can someday tinker with a gene to help children with autism, what's to prevent them from tinkering with other genes to make "normal" children smarter? Technology always adapts to demand; prenatal sex-selection tests designed to weed out inherited diseases that strike one gender or the other-hemophilia. for instance-are being used to help families have the son or daughter they always wanted. Human-growth hormone was intended for children with a proven severe deficiency,

but it came to be used on self-conscious short kids-if their parents could afford as

much as \$30,000 for a year's injections Self-improvement has forever been an American religion, but the norms about what is normal keep changing. Many parents don't think twice about straightening their kids' crooked teeth but stop short of fixing a crooked nose, and vet, in just the past seven years, plastic surgery performed

on teens has doubled. As for intellectual advantages, parents soak their babies in Mozart with dubious effect. put a toy computer in the crib, elbow their way into the best preschools to speed them on their path to Harvard. Infertile couples advertise for an egg donor in the Yale Daily News, while entrepreneurs sold the sperm of Nobel laureates

"What, if anything, is the difference between getting one's child a better school and getting one's child a better gene?" asks Erik Parens of the Hastings Center, a bioethics think tank. "I think the answer has to do with the difference between cultivat-

ing and purchasing capacities." Buying a Harvard education may enhance a child's natural gifts, he argues, but it's not the same as buying the gifts.

Every novel, every movie that updates Frankenstein provides a cautionary tale: these experiments may not turn out as we expect. Genetic engineering is more permanent than a pill or a summer-school class. Parents would be making decisions over which their children had no control and whose long-term impact would be uncertain. "Human organisms are not things you hang ornaments on like a Christmas tree, says Thomas Murray, Hastings' director, "If you make a change in one area, it may cause very subtle changes in some other area. Will there be an imbalance that the scientists are not looking for, not testing for, and might not even show up in mice?'

What if it turned out that by enhancing intellectual ability, some other personality trait changed as well? "Everything comes at a price," argues UCIA neurobiologist Alcino Silva. "Very often when there's a genetic change where we improve something, something else gets hit by it, so it's never a clean thing." The alarmists, like longtime biotech critic Jeremy Rifkin, go further. "How do you know you're not going to create a mental monster?" he asks. "We may be on the road to programming our own extinction

The broader concern is one of fairness. Will such enhancement be available to everyone or only to those who can afford it?

"Every parent in the world is going to want this," says Rifkin, "But who will have access to it? It will create a new form of discrimination. How will we look at those who are not enhanced, the child with the low IQ?" Who would have the right to know whether your smarts were natural or turbo-charged? How would it affect whom we choose to marrythose with altered genes or those without? If, as a parent, you haven't mortgaged the house to enhance your children, what sort of parent does that make you? Will a child one day be able to sue her parents for failing to do everything they could

for her? But just for the sake of argument, sup-

pose raising IQ didn't require any permanent, expensive genetic engineering at all. Scientists are studying brain-boosting compounds. Suppose they found something as cheap and easy as aspirin; one pill and you wake up the next morning a little bit brighter. Who could argue with that?

Some people are worried about the trend toward making people more alike-



access to it?

THE I.Q. GENE?

taller, thinner, smarter. Maybe it's best for society as a whole to include those with a range of needs and talents and predisposi-tions, warts and all. "As someone who morally values diversity," says ethicist Elizabeth Bounds of Emory University's Candler School of Theology, "I find this frightening. We run the risk of shaping a much more homogeneous community around certain dominant values, a far more engineered community." What sort of lottery would decide who is to leap ahead, who is to be held back for an overall balance? At the moment, nature orchestrates our diversity. But human nature resists leaving so much to chance, if there is actually a choice.

The debate raises an even more basic question: Why would we want to enhance memory in the first place? We may imagine that it would make us happier, except that we all know smart, sad people; or richer, except that there are wildly successful people who can't remember their phone number. Perhaps it would help us get better grades, land a better job, but it might also take us down a road we'd prefer not to travel. "You might say yes, it would be wonderful if we could all have better memories," muses Stanford University neuropsychiatrist Dr. Robert Malenka. "But there's a great adaptive value to being able to forget things. If your memory improves too much, you might not be a happier person. I'm thinking of rape victims and soldiers coming back from war. There's a reason the brain has evolved to forget certain things.

In the end it is the scientists who both offer the vision and raise the alarms. People with exceptional, photographic memories, they note, sometimes complain of mental overload. "Such people,"

44 There's a

reason the brain

has evolved to

forget certain

says University of Iowa neurologist Dr. Antonio Damasio. enormous difficulty making decisions, because every time they can think of 20 different options to choose from." There is luxury and peace in forgetting, sometimes; it literally clears the mind. allows us to focus on the general rather than the specific and immediate evidence in front

of us. Maybe it even makes room for reflection on questions like when better is not necessarily good. -Reported by David Bjerklie and Emily Mitchell/New York, J. Madeleine Nash/Chicago and Dick Thompson/ Washington

ELIXIRS FOR YOUR MEMORY

The blitz is on for ginkgo and other herbal products, but are they panaceas or placebos?

By TAMMERLIN DRUMMOND

IRED OF FRANTICALLY SEARCHING FOR your keys? Or of rushing into a room only to forget what you were looking for? If you're worried about memory lapses, just flick on the TV. There are Annie Potts, former star of Designing Women, and Hector Elizondo of Chicago Hope hawking dueling versions of the herbal supplement ginkgo biloba. Or click on the website www.braingum.com, where you can read about a "delicious" supplement derived from the compound phosphatidyl serine. All offer hope for improving memory and brain function

The graving of America has created a whole new industry aimed at people worried about remembering and concentrating. In health-food stores, you'll find dozens of products that claim to do wonders for your brain. They range from vitamins to exotic herbal concoctions. But at the head of the pack is the enormously popular ginkgo biloba-a derivative of a leafy ornamental tree originating in eastern China that racked up \$240 million in

> sales in 1997 Countless people swear that ginkgo has changed their lives. So effective has the advertising blitz been that ginkgo products seem to be leaning off the shelves. Even

old-line pharmaceutical houses are offering their versions of brain boosters. In their first year on the market, Bayer Consumer Care's new vitamin pills, spiked with

ginkgo-and sold under the label Memory and Concentration Formula-took in a cool \$8 million

The no-brain question: Does any of this stuff actually work? Traditional healers have no doubts about ginkgo, a staple of



Ginkgo Biloba

This herbal extract derived from the leaves of a tree of Chinese origin is said to increase blood flow to the brain, improving alertness and concentration

Chinese medicine. Nor do manufacturers of so-called nutriceuticals-the unregulated natural "medications" found in healthfood stores and supermarkets. They say it somehow improves memory by increasing the flow of blood to the brain. Leading memory experts, however, are skeptical about ginkgo and other brain boosters. "Most of these products have not been investigated to any significant extent that would warrant the claims that are being made," says Dr. Ronald Petersen, a neuroscientist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Minn. Other geriatricians are more blunt. All the hoopla, they say, is merely a case of the placebo effect run amuck: people want their memories to get better, so they do. Give them a sugar pill, and they probably wouldn't know the difference.

Government researchers are understandably concerned that millions of people are gulping supplements without any idea what their effects are, positive or negative. The National Institutes of Health is undertaking a study of the effects of ginkgo on elderly people with mild memory impairment. But it could be years before results are in

Meanwhile, what are healthy souls in search of a quick boost to do? Consumers have little to go on other than manufacturers' claims and inconclusive research. Moreover, since ginkgo and other supplements are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, potency and purity vary from brand to brand. Most troubling, however, is that few people read labels. The list of don't for grinkgo bliob nichude

the signals they carry through the brain. As people learn, the synapses—interconnections between brain cells—are reinforced, creating a complex network of associations. But with age, the synapses somehow falter—about 25% of them between ages 25 and 55—and so does the ability to effective—live retrieve memories.

One day it may be possible to delay or even reverse the course of Alzheimer's with medication. Two FDA-approved drugs are currently available for treating the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease—donepezil, marketed under the brand name Aricept, and tacrine (Cognex). Both block an en-

gums up the brain so the neurons can't fire. Eventually, what began as problems remembering names or telephone numbers ends in full-scale dementia.

Memory-loss experts around the country are testing an array of treatments in the hope of finding that one universal brain tonie that will arrest those changes. Scientists speculate that megadoses of antioxidants such as vitamis E and C may reduce the cell damage associated with severe memory loss. The theory is that antioxidants soak up to the control of the control of the control calls. But as with so much of what makes memory tike, no one knows for such

In some studies, high doses of vitamin E wowded the progress of Alzheimer's for up to seven months. That may not sound like a big deal, but if you have a parent suffering from Alzheimer's, it's a godsend. Many geriatricians recommend vitamin E for mild cognitive decline. "There is nothing absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known, "assy Dr. Barry Goring absolutely known," assy Dr. Barry

don, director of the memory clinic at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutes and author of the self-help book Memory (MasterMedia Limited; \$14.95). "But physicians feel this has enough

(MasterMedia Limited; \$14.95).

"But physicians feel this has enough
evidence in its favor and few
enough known side effects."

Physicians also recommend prescription doses of antiinflammatory agents such as
Naprosyn and ibuprofen to reduce Alzheimer's-related inflammation. Meanwhile, a dozen

brain-boosting therapies ranging from estrogen replacement (which may promote the growth of some neurons) to entirely new drugs are at various stages of development. In the near future, two new cholinesterase inhibitors, ENA 713 (Exelon) and metrifonate, are expected to become available. Memory researchers have also been looking at the NMDA receptor, target of the Princeton experiment. But tests of possible drugs to enhance memory have been inconclusive. Says Bill Thies, vice president for medical and scientific affairs at the Alzheimer's Association: "I think in a 10-year window we'll see some revolutionary stuff to prevent the disease.

What can you do while waiting? To fend off normal age-related memory loss, follow the adage Use it or lose it, the experts say. Simply reading a book or working a crossword puzzle on a regular basis can do wonders, even if it's not clear why. "The most solid piece of advice is to stay active," says Patrical run, associate director of the memory and cognition lab at Brandesis memory and cognition lab at Brandesis memory and cognition lab at Brandesis memory and cognition and the same and the best memory boosters of all. —Reported by William Dowelliew York

Antioxidants

A lot of physicians recommend mega doses of vitamins E and C to forestall memory loss



Physical Exercise ... Moderate aerobic exercise

Moderate aerobic exercise enhances memory retention although no one is quite sure how it works

... and Mental Exercise

The brain is like a muscle, and if you don't use it, you'll lose it. Neuroscientists recommend reading books, doing crossword puzzles and other mental exercises to challenge your memory

the warning that those taking aspirin or other blood thinners should first consult their physician. Why? Because ginkgo, which has anticlotting characteristics, when taken in combination with a blood thinner can cause internal bleeding.

The one thing generally agreed on is that too little is shown about most memory supplements to assess their risks. So far, the research has focused on humans with Alzheimer's and lab animals like Princeton's Doogle mice. Scientists are only now beginning to examine what happens to memory in mornal people during the aging process. The properties of the National Institutes of Health. But it's a lot more complicated than that.

Much of how memory works remains murky. We know, though, that memory involves chemicals called neurotransmitters—one of which is acetylcholine—and zyme that destroys acetylcholine, and have been shown to sometimes slow the progress of the disease. Animal tests suggest that the drugs might also make a difference in less frects are no pictic. Cognets builds up in enzyme that can lead to liver damage. And though many patients can better tolerate Aricept, the newer of the two drugs, it can cause diarrhea and vomiting.

The National Institute on Aging is embuding on a valve to determine if Aricpt can help people with mild cognitive impairment. If you suffer from xeir, you might consistently come out of the mail and not remember where you parked your car (with dementia, you'd forget that you even owned one in the first place). First you have been a proposed to the hard control of the proposed of

It takes more than genes to make a smart rodent, or high-IQ humans

VERY AGE MUST DEVELOP ITS OWN VERSION OF THE UNobtainable and chimerical quick fix: the right abracadabra to select the winning lottery number, the proper prayer to initiate the blessed millennium, the correct formula to construct the philosopher's stone. In a technological age, we seek the transforming gene to elicit immediate salvation from within.

The excellent and provocative study of Ioe Tsien and his colleagues will, one may safely predict, be widely misread in the false light of this age-old hope-combined with some equally age-old fallacies of human reasoning.

The scientists bred strains of mice with extra copies of a gene coded for a protein that can facilitate communication between neurons. Since one popular theory of memory relates this primary mental capacity to an organism's ability to make associations-say, between a bee's buzz and the pain of its bite-this enhanced communication might promote the recording of associations within the brain, thus creating memories

Pundits in our age of rapid misinformation will surely transmit the story as a claim that the gene for intelligence has been cloned and that a human smart pill for routine production of kiddie geniuses lies just around the millennial corner. None of this punditry, however, will bear any relationship to current realities or reasonable prospects for the short-term future. Even so, the mice studied by Tsien et al. could help us correct two common errors in our thinking about genetics and intelligence

1. THE LABELING FALLACY. Complex organisms are not the sum of their genes, nor do genes alone build particular items of anatomy or behavior by themselves. Most genes influence several aspects of anatomy and behavior-as they operate through complex interactions with other genes and their products, and with environmental factors both within and outside the developing organism. We fall into a deep error, not just a harmless oversimplification, when we speak of genes "for" particular parts or behaviors.

No single gene determines even the most concrete aspect of my physical anatomy, say the length of my right thumb. The very notion of a gene "for" something as complex as "intelligence" lapses into absurdity. Intelligence is an array of largely independent and socially defined mental attributes. not a measure of a single something, secreted by one gene, measurable as one number and capable of arranging human diversity into one line ordered by relative mental worth.

To cite an example of this fallacy, in 1996 scientists re-

ported the discovery of a gene for novelty-seeking behaviorgenerally regarded as a good thing. In 1997 another study saw a linkage between the same gene and a propensity for heroin addiction. Did the "good" gene for enhanced exploration become the "bad" gene for addictive tendencies? Biochemistry may be the same, but context and background matter.

2. THE COMPOSITIONAL FALLACY. Just as each gene doesn't make a separate piece of an organism, the entire organism cannot be regarded as a simple summation of relevant building codes and their action (a skeleton is not a head gene added to a neck gene added to a rib gene, etc.). The fact that complex systems like human mentality or anatomy can be

easily disrupted by deficiencies in single factors does not validate the opposite claim that enhancement

of the same factors will boost the system in a harmonious and beneficial manner. The potential "fixing" of specific abnormalities-the realistic hope of certain gene therapies for the near future—does not imply that we'll be able to bioengineer superathletes or superscholars. The remedy for a specific deficiency

does not become an elixir for general superiority. I can save a drowning man's mind if I hold his head above water, but I can't make him a genius by continually adding more oxygen to his ordinary surroundings.

Ironically, Tsien's mouse gene disproves these two fallacies of genetic determinism from within. By identifying the gene and charting the biochemical basis of its action, Tsien has demonstrated how valuable and necessary environmental enrichment is for yielding a beneficial effect. This gene doesn't make a mouse "smart" all by its biochemical self. Rather, the gene's action

allows adult mice to retain a neural openness for learning that young mice naturally possess but lose in aging

Even if Tsien's gene exists with the same function in humans (a realistic possibility), we will need an extensive regimen of learning to make possible any benefit from its enhanced action. In fact, we try very hard-often without success, in part because false beliefs in genetic determinism discourage our efforts-to institute just such a regimen during a human lifetime. We call this regimen education. Perhaps Jesus had a good biological insight when he stated (Matthew 18:3), "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Stephen Jay Gould teaches biology and the history of science at Harvard and New York University.



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VACCINE JITTERS

More parents are resisting inoculations for their kids. But that raises fears of disease outbreaks

By LEON JAROFF

HEY ARE PANFUL RITES OF PASsage for American children, from infancy through elementary school. Kids dread them, their parents reluctarily accept them, and the government mandates them. And, until recently, few really questioned the need for—or the safety of—vaccination.

Now, alarmed by reports of severe reactions, a series of unsettling announcements by health authorities and contentious congressional hearings, not to mention fear-mongering on the Intermet, a small but growing number of parents are contesting national vaccination policy.

They suspect that the fusillade of 22 injections imposed on children by age six may, alone or in combination, pose significant dangers. Although the evidence is largely anecdotal, some parents charge that inoculations have brought on such disorders as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic fatigue syndrome, diabetes and even autism.

Doctors and medical associations are disturbed by the antivaccine sentiment in some communities. They fear that it could erode public confidence in the nation's largely successful vaccination policies and lead to outbreaks of many infectious diseases now held in check by incoulations.

The value of vaccinations is most obvious to those who remember row upon row of iron lungs occupied by victims of polio epidemics and the quarantine signs posted on the homes of people stricken by diphtheria, whooping cough, smallpox and measles. Of these scourges, smallpox has been wiped out and the others have become rare and largely preventable through the use of vaccines. Says Duke University pediatrics professor Samuel Katz, a leading authority on vaccines: "Immunization is the single intervention that

has most dramatically reduced childhood morbidity and mortality."

Vaccines, of course, aren't without risk.
A slight possibility alwaye exists that those containing live but weakened viruses—oral polio, measles and mumps vaccines, for example—could trigger the disease they're aniethed to prevent. And a few vaccines originally thought to be safe have caused side effects so severe in a small percentage of inoculated children that they've had to be modified or temporarily withdrawn.

Though the last naturally caused case of polio in the U.S. was in 1979, recent announcements and recalls by government agencies have drawn public attention to the real if very small risks of inoculation. Each year an average of eight children are infected with polio by the otherwise highly effective Sabin oral vaccine, which is made from live but attenuated polio viruses. This danger was highlighted in June, when the Food and Drug Administration recommended the Salk killed-virus vaccine, which is safe but somewhat less effective, instead of the Sabin variety, for the first two of the four required polio inoculations given children. The two additional Sabin vaccinations would be deferred until the kids are out of infancy.

In July the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Public Health Service urged vaccine makers to remove the trace of mercury preservative added to many vaccines to kill bacteria. While the amount of the additive, called thimerosal, in a single vaccine poses no threat, it's remotely possible that the accumulated mercury in multiple inoculations might cause neurolgical damage. "We took action before evidence of any harm," says Dr. Walter Orenstein, head of the national immunization program for the Centers for Disease Control. "But even

with a theoretical risk, we wanted to work with manufacturers to get to thimerosal-free products as soon as possible."

has pushed back the age for the first of three hepatitis-B shots, which also contain thimerosal, from birth to

two to six months in children whose mothers test negative for the disease.

Shortly after that the CDC

WHEN KIDS SHOULD BE VACCINATED

Before children rea age 6, they should have had between a and 22 inoculation All but two are giver as shots. These are the recommended ages when they sho be administered:

Birth m	1 2 no. mo.	4 mo.	6 mo.	12 15 mo. mo.	18 4-6 mo. yrs.
Hepatitis B	1 and 2			3	
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussi	s 1	2	3		4 5
H. influenzae, type b	1	2	3	4	
Polio Doses 3 and 4 are oral	1	2		3	4
Measles, Mumps, Rubella				1	2
Chicken pox (Varicella)				1	
Rotavirus (temporarily suspended)	1	2	3		
Approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians					

disorder are similar among vaccinated and unvaccinated children.

Still, parental concerns are understandable. After her 28*-year-old son had a convulsion following a DTP shot and developed learning disabilities. Barbara Fisher, of Vienna, Va., entered the vaccine data of the conding the National Vaccine Information Center, a clearinghouse of vaccine data, Says Fisher. Tiyo a question of the control of the control

But problems could arise if questioning leads to exemptions from state-mandated shots or even boycotts of them, which people in some communities are calling for. The CDC estimates that only 78% of U.S. two-year-olds have been given all the recommended incoulations.

Those statistics could spell trouble. Dr. Jon Abramson, chairman of the pediatrics caudemy's immunization committee, recalls that between 1989 and 1991, when many people were becoming wary of vaccines, measles-immunization rates dropped 10% and an outbreak ensued, resulting in 55,000 cases, several thousand hospitalizations and 120 deaths. "Since we started immunizing again," Abramson says, "there have been very few outbreaks of indigenous measles."

Paradoxically, the near eradication of many diseases in the U.S. has caused many Americans to risk dispensing with vaccinations. Today's parents don't know about polio and diphtheria, "says Dr. Natalie Smith of the California Department of Smith of the California Department of John Smith of the California Department of t

Washington, Jeanne McDowell/Los Angeles and Alice Park/New York

WHAT CAN GO WRONG

weakened live viruses that can trigger polio. The FDA recommends that the Salk killed-virus

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS AND PERTUSSIS An old

been blamed for so cases of brain dam is still available. Th CDC recommends a new, safer variety known as DtaP mercury, used in ser amounts to kill bact in vaccines, can cau neurological damag Manufacturers are urged to remove it

approved vaccine wa suspended when 23 infants suffered from a collapsed bowel

MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA Some suspect this vaccine Chris Rock is on a roll. Hip movies? Check. Hot TV shows? Check, Best comic in America? You bet

By CHRISTOPHER JOHN FARLEY

Some may inquire whether the subject of wit is worthy of such effort. In my opinion, there is no doubt about it ...

-Sigmund Freud, Wit and Its Relation to the Unconscious

HRIS ROCK JUST GOT HIS BUTT whupped by a woman. It's midafternoon at the Chelsea Piers boxing facilities, and Rock is shooting a taped piece for his eponymous нво talk show. The idea: Wouldn't it be funny if Rock went around New York City gyms looking for the next Great White Hope? The twist: he runs into female boxing champ Christy Martin, and in a staged fight, Rock gets knocked around the ring as if he's a shoe in a clothes dryer. Now Rock is seated on some bleachers, catching his breath. After a few minutes, Martin edges over and-in a surprisingly shy manner for a woman who batters other women for a living-asks Rock to pose for a commemorative photo. "Whatever you need," says Rock. "Just don't hit me.

You might expect a guy named Rock to be a little tougher. But Rock, 34, is a comic, not a fighter. He can't throw an uppercut, but he knows how to get a laugh. And right now, he's the funniest man in America. Dick Gregory calls Rock "a genius." Saturday Night Live executive producer Lorne Michaels says, "There's always one comic a whole generation imitates. Chris dominates now. There's no one as good. Then again, Jerry Seinfeld, a pal of Rock's, says this about Rock's hip-hopping in-

your-face style: "It's the yelling that makes it special. It's very easy to hear what he's saying. Beyond that, I don't see anything special about Among comics, such joking put-downs are the ultimate display of respect.

Rock is making the most of his moment. He could have stuck to the Eddie Murphy/ Martin Lawrence path to fame and fortune: 1) sign up for a buddy-cop film; 2) ad-lib your way through the criminally formulaic script; 3) get paid; 4) repeat. But Rock is playing it smart and working with Hollywood's edgiest comic directors. He has a costarring role in Dogma, a film by Kevin Smith (Chasing Amy); a lead opposite Morgan Freeman in Nurse Betty, a film by Neil LaBute (In the Company of Men);

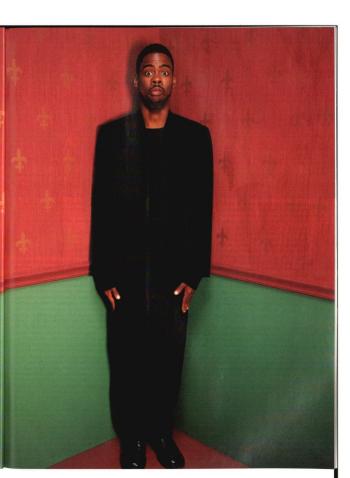
and a star turn in I Was Made to Love Her for the Weitz brothers (American Pie). Even Woody Allen says he's looking

into appearing opposite Rock in a comedy about sportscasters that's in the earlydevelopment stage. "Ninety-nine percent of the business is really talk," says Allen, "but I'd love to work with him, Rock's gift is this: he can make hard

truths sound funny. It's an invaluable talent in a disinformation age in which it has become more and more difficult to talk about things as they actually are. There's a near constant rush toward metaphorization, toward transmuting events into mediagenic terms. Oral sex isn't about sex, some pundit or other tells us, it's about honesty. Snorting coke isn't about drugs, it's about the media. Shooting up your high school class isn't about gun control, it's about Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Rock cuts through the b.s. Suddenly we wake up, like Keanu Reeves in The Matrix, and find ourselves in a tub of goo with robots ruling the world. "Rock says everything you want to say but that you're not quite sharp or smart enough to think of yourself," says MTV president Judy McGrath, who signed him up to act as host of this week's MTV Video Music Awards, to be held at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. you hear him, you say, 'Exactly!'

So here's what Rock said about the "assassination" of rap stars Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls: "Malcolm X was as-sassinated. John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Them two niggas got shot." His take on white poverty: "There's nothing scarier than a broke white man. The broker they are, the madder they are. That's why white people start forming groups and blowing up s___. Freeman. Aryan Nation. Klan. Poor, pissed-off white people are the biggest threat to the security of this country." And his view on single moms: "It doesn't take a scientist to tell when you're gonna have f___ If a kid calls his grandmama Mommy and his mama Pam-he's going to jail."

Photograph for TIME by Kwaku Alston









In 1997 Rock wo two Emmys for BRING THE PAIN, right; the young comedian paid his dues and learned his craft at clubs like the COMIC

like the COMIC
STRIP in New York
City, far right; this summer he film
acclaimed HBO special, BIGGER A
BLACKER, at the legendary Apollo
Theater in Hartem, below. Rock's
consider is constituted but he in



Rock is like a hotel shower. his comtols are hard to understand, and you never know whether what's going to come out of him is going to be soothing or sadding. "It's good, it's intelligent," says Allen about Rock's stand-up, "It's usches the audience in quickly and keeps them." And his unpredictability is part of what makes his comic take so fresh. "Somebody should always be offended," Rock says. "Somebody in your life should always be like, "Why did you have to do that? Always. That's just being a real artist. That's the difference between Scorsese and Disney."

A new joke operates almost as an event of universal interest. It is passed on from one person to another, just like the news of the latest conquest.

-Ibid.

OCK'S OFFICE IN MIDTOWN Manhattan has a crisp, professional cool to it, as if he were running a start-up Internet company instead of a comedy talk show. Still, his eclectic personal taste is revealed in the décor: there are several Woody Allen posters on the walls, including one for Take the Money and Run. a small table with a couple of Jean-Michel Basquiat art books on top, a CD rack with a few old Prince albums. The Chris Rock Show starts its fourth season next Friday, and rows of index cards on a board next to Rock's desk chart out the show's upcoming guests. It's a varied list, featuring such not-so-celebrated celebrities as Ken Hamblin, a conservative black talk-radio host; and Les Nubians, a terrific but little-known French-speaking hip-hop/R.-and-B. duo. These are the kinds of off-center guests that would get on *Leno* or *Letterman* only if Pamela Anderson Lee canceled at the last moment.

Rock sits at his desk, flipping through amula folder with scripts from his writers for proposed sketches. This is the most important moment of the day—desding important moment of the day—desding that short really finany. The says. "I like this like a beginning the say of the

Rock wants to create a show of lasting ality. Asked about the furor du jour in TV-land, the dearth of minorities in prime time, he gives a surprising answer. He acknowledges that there's prejudice but says minorities need to work harder, improve their game. "I was raised to believe that you had to do things better than white people in order to succeed. The old black shows were better than the white shows. The Jeffersons was a lot better, Good Times was way funnier. Sanford and Son. Now, though, everyone thinks we're equal, so we submit the same s___ that everyone else submits. And then we get mad when they won't air it. You got to go back to the old attitude of it has to be twice as good." Rock knows about hard work and hard

times. He was born in Georgetown, S.C., and grew up in a poor part of the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. His dad (who died in 1988) worked as a truck driver for the New York Daily News, his mom was a schoolteacher (she now runs a

day-care center). Rock was bused from his black neighborhood in Bed-Stuy to a white high school in Bensonhurst. He says the students there were "worse than white trash-they were white toxic waste." and would beat him up regularly. Funny thing was, even though he was a misfit in Bensonhurst, after a while he didn't fit in back in Bed-Stuv either. And nobody in either place took him seriously. It was then Rock first realized he was a comic, not a fighter. "I just remember that whenever I got really mad or passionate, like in an argument, people would laugh, and I'd be dead serious," he says. "It would happen a lot. So it was like, 'Gee, I've got something here.'

Rock quit school and, after a stint as asbusboy at Red Lobster, laumched a comdy career. He was a clueless 17-year-old, laying small clubs around New York like the Comic Strip, trying to read the crowd, trying to mik laughes, usually failing. He wasn't making much—the Comic Strip and \$7 as at during the week, \$40 on an ame out there, trying to build a rep. His big joke was this: "Woman comes up to me, says she'll do anything for me, anything, So I say, 'Bisthe, paint my house!"

"He used to always tell me he needed another joke like 'Bitch, paint my house!," says Mario Joyner, a comic and friend of Rocks. "He thought that was a big bit for him." Rock, frustrated that crowds wouldn't laugh, once poured a drink on a man's head. Clubs refused to give him much stage time, agitating him further.

So Rock, the high school dropout, began to study. He watched Richard Pryor's concert films, listened to records by Bill Cosby and Woody Allen, memorized jokes by Moms Mabley. He haunted com-



OR SO





edy ellus, watching other comics. One summer night in 1896, Rock was handing out in the Comic Strip when he saw Eddie Murphy. He got Lucien Hold, the club's talent coordinator, to introduce him. Murphy asked if Rock was on that night. He wasn't... but now he was. Rock decided to take the stage and, as they say in comedy, he killed. Murphy gave him a small role as a valent in Recruit Philic Copi. IA. deev years later, Rock joined the cast of Sathradia who couldn't fisht was in for a battle.

In the years that Rock was on SNL, 1990-93, the show was loaded with future superstars: Adam Sandler, David Spade, Mike Myers. Rock found it hard to get atitime, difficult to get SNL's mostly white writing staff to put him in sketches or understand where he was coming from creatively. He quit SNL in 1993 to join Fox's mostly black comedy show In Living Color—only to see it go off the air the next year. His career began to slide.

So in 1996 Rock and Joyner hit the road. Rock was interested in playing smaller stages, black clubs. He wanted to reconnect to audiences, to the street-level reality that had made his act funny to begin with. The result was Bring the Pain, his landmark HBO special. "He opened up his material, and it allowed a larger audience to be receptive to it," says Tim Meadows, a fellow SNL cast member. "Chris started talking about things onstage that he talked about in personal life—social and political issues." The show's title

came from a song by rapper Method Man; the show's spirit came from hip-hop too. Rock, dressed in black, stalked the stage, barking jokes in a rough; cadence somewhere between a Baptist prescher and RUN-DM.C. Like a hip-hop deejay, Rock sampled the personas of the comic greats he admired—Gregory's political smarts, Richard Pryor's scatological colequence, Allen's nebbishy charm—and mixed them into something new. "Tm a rap comedian the same way Bill Cooky's iai black. Tm like, bang, bang hang, right into it."

so funny it hurt. Coin Powell
will never be Vice President,
Rock cracked, because white
propie loan what vall happen.
General was a supplied to the propie loan what vall happen
dent right now, I couldn't wait
to kill the President. He argued that O.J. Simpson got off because over
his fame, not his sinc olor- "150, J. Coil
his fame, not his sinc olor- "150, J. Coil
he become the beautiful to t

But Bring the Pain's most talkedabout bit was Rock's searing riff on "black people vs. niggas." It was a caustic comic commentary that contrasted the values of upwardly mobile blacks with those who had given in to a kind of gangsta nihilism. "There's like a civil war going on with black people," Rock declared. "There are two sides: there's black people, and there's niggas. And niggas have got to go." Niggas, in Rock's view, were a source of ignorance, violence, family dysfunction. It was a riff that resembled traditional stand-up comedy in the way that an open wound sometimes resembles a smile.

The taboo he shattered was exposing the secret, closed discourse among black Americans about their own, "say cultural critic Michael Eric Dyson. "Rock signifies an unwillingness among the durty-laundry theory. That theory suggests you don't say any thing self-critical or negative about black people where white people can hear it. But the hip-hop generation believes in making money off the publication of private pain and agony."

The bit could have been seen as a selfout: the mainstream press suddenly embraced Rock as a tough-talking truth teller, unafraid to critique his own race. Says hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, an early fan of Rock's: "The white media chose pieces of Rock's performance that made them feel comfortable, and they wrote about it and they loved him."

But something more interesting was going on: the bit was significant in part because it wasn't aimed at the ears of whites. Blacks have long complained about being ignored by the larger community, unheard, unseen. Rock's rifaired on 1810, not arr, but it eldn't care what whites thought or whether they were even listening. Suddenly whites were the ones rendered invisible, inaudible.

As minority communities swell, no

doubt more conversations on the national stage will take place without reference to whites, as darker Americans bounce to to whites, as darker Americans bounce to to white as the stage of the stage of the stage carring how it affects their image in the use of the yeas of the white community. "Now white community, "Now limembers of the mainstream media] as the stage of the have to live with [Rock] even though he makes them uncomfortable," chuckles Simmons." And I think that shabulous."

Wit-making is not at the disposal of all, in general there are but a few persons to whom one can point and say they are witty.

-Ibid.

OU ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF Chris Rock's home: a carriage house in Brooklyn, ivy hanging from the front. a quiet street except for a kid a block or two away blasting Bob Marley's Is This Love from the open windows of his van. Malaak, Rock's wife, answers the door, and a rat-size terrier explodes out, yapping. "That's Essence," says Malaak, Named after Essence, the magazine? "Named after the [1993] Essence Awards, where Chris and I first met," she corrects

Malaak leads you up the stairs, past three framed posters of Miles Davis, past a shelf containing pictures of Rock's family and copies of books like Dorollv West's The Wedding, into the kitchen, where Rock, dressed in a Phat Farm T shirt, sweat pants and white gym sooks, is watching the world track-and-field championships on TV and flipping through the sports section of the Dailu News. Some of Bock's Some of Spock's

friends suggest that the couple have experienced domestic difficulties of late, but right now they look comfortable together; relaxed, laid back. Still, there's a little work mixed in with this lazy Sunday afternoon—Rock's searching for material in the paper for his jokes for the MTV Video Music Awards.

Rock, despite his brash stage persona, is often subdued in private. His head writer, Jeff Stilson, says the man viewers see on Rock's specials is actually "Chris Rock times 1,000." Still, when a subject strikes a chord with him, Rock will go off on a comic jam session. Take when you watch stry, you don't see a lot of ood with grap-rock. "It's kind of sad that when you watch stry, you don't see a lot of cool white guys anymore that are cool of

without acting black," he says. "Like when I was a kid, Axl Rose was cool. David Lee Roth was cool. And they were cool and white. And acting white. Comfortable in their whiteness. Now everybody tries to act black. Kid Rock looks like he sleeps in RUN-D.M.C.'s closet."

On The Chris Rock Shou. Rock says, his writers supply him with about his his material; when he's performing at eclubor of ohigh his one-man specials one-man specials would be avoids computers ("I had one not a vaids computers ("I had one not not a vaids computers ("I had one not not performed own in red pen on yellow legal of come in red pen on yellow legal of the most pen of the pe

begin as cumulus clouds of general observation before calescing into the thunder and lightning of his stand-up. "I had something the other day—this thing about men, that no matter what they're doing at their job, if some beautiful woman walks by, you try to do it cool," says Rock. "So I'm trying to figure out how you unload a garbage truck cool—or whatever. Notes like that are what I leave for myself."

In his off-hours, Rock hangs out with a core group of comies—Seinfeld, Joyner, SNL's Colin Quinn, a few others. "It's sort of the same reason cops and prostitutes like to hang out together," explains Seinfeld. "No one else understands them." It's a group that meets for non-professional reasons, but the cama-

raderie often sparks humorous ideas. Nevertheless, Rock declines to share lokes in progress even with his friends or his wife, doing his writing in private. The onetime high school misfit still has trouble fitting in. "I really can't trust anybody," Rock says. "Even the people who love you will have momentary lapses in love or they'll take advantage of you. It's too powerful, the fame and the money."

But despite his solitary, almost misanthropic hasic nature, Rock feels the essence of his humor is in shared experience. The material comes from whenevery our earlize that you and someoneelse have something in common," says Rock. "So any conversation you've had more than once, anything you see happening to you that you see hap-

a friend, you go, 'Hmmm, that's a situation I can make funny.'" To road test jokes, Rock slips into clubs late at night and performs unannounced.

Rock doesn't see himself as a spokesperson or a leader, but nonetheless he's trying to pave the way for the next generation of comics. He's funding the Illtop Journal, a college humor magazine patterned after the Harvard Lampoon that will be based at Howard University in Washington. The Illtop Journal is set to start publication this fall, "In his various travels Chris has been frustrated by the lack of comedy writers of color," says Stepsun Records head Bill Stephney, an adviser on the journal. "So this is the best way to address that. He also noticed that many of the writers at SNL, at Conan and Letterman came from the Harpard Lampoon. What better way to create more black comedy writers than to replicate what

happens at Harvard at Howard? So maybe Rock is a fighter. Not with his fists but with his jokes. His punch lines are his punches, his gibes are his jabs. In fact, just as Muhammad Ali had his Rumble in the Jungle, Rock hopes to set his next HBO stand-up in the symbolic location of Africa. "It's weird with stand-up comedy," he says, "It doesn't really translate worldwide. I want to figure out how do I make it worldwide. Do a special in Africa. Can't beat that. Pull that off, then I will have done something." And the guy who got beaten up in grade school, who got whupped on his own TV show, who now rules American comedy, would finally be the undisputed comedic champion of the world.



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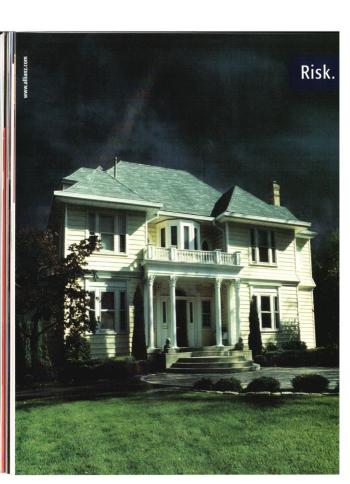
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Should we visit Ellis Island or go on national TV? New York is aswim in fishbowl studios

By JAMES PONIEWOZIK

F THE STATUE OF LIBERTY WERE BEING designed today, she'd have a video camera instead of a torch. And she would welcome them all to Manhattan-the huddled, sign-hoisting, bodypainted masses yearning to be filmed. At the crack of dawn, they're at Rockefeller Plaza, peering into the NBC Today show's glass-walled studios, pestering Al Roker for a chance to say hi to Aunt Connie in Flat Rock. By afternoon, they're choking Times Square sidewalks outside MTV's fishbowl studio in hopes of getting into a crowd shot on Total Request Live. At various other times, they might hit either site for an open-air concert. Since Todau's set went transparent in 1994, getting on TV has become as quintessential a New York City tourist experience as eating a pastrami sandwich the size of your suitcase.

And soon-thanks in no small part to the splashy showings of MTV and especially Today-new fishbowls for ABC and CBS's morning shows will join these, as well as Fox News' existing one on 48th Street. Next week ABC's Good Morning America begins broadcasting from a two-story, 46,750-sq.-ft. glass studio a quick jaywalk from MTV's. CBS launches its high-tech, estimated \$30 million crystal ship along with the Early Show with Bryant Gumbel on Nov. 1.

Clearly-so to speak-ABC and CBS are sniffing after Today's morning dominance, achieved dramatically after its see-through set debuted, and will likewise aim to capture street ambience and interact with viewers. But each set will offer a different aspect of the city's personality: NBC's, the Art Deco cool of Rockefeller Center; ABC's, the neon bustle of Times Square; CBS's, the fairy-tale

A VIEW FROM THE INSIDE Today's Couric shares the camera with her co-stars

vista of Central Park and the Plaza Hotel. "The idea of doing Christmas in New York City in the millennium year" from the site, gushes Early Show senior executive producer Steve Friedman, "is amazing." Meanwhile, GMA executive producer Shelley Ross praises her show's Broadway perch as "the cross-roads of the world."

The studios have achieved p.r. symbiosis with a newly sanitized New York City, the family-friendly Big Candy Apple-imagine Charles Gibson and Diane Sawyer as hosts of GMA from Times Square's porno paradise of a few years ago-and despite its already jammed sidewalks, the city has welcomed the cameras (the networks provide security to help control crowds). Friedman, who conceived Today's studio when he was its executive producer, even gives the show partial credit for the city's image turnaround, and his successor, Jeff Zucker, calls it "probably the best daily advertisement for the city." But now that imitators are jumping in, NBC of course downplays the importance of the set. "Everyone can build a studio. Not everyone can have Katie [Couric] and Matt [Lauer]," Zucker sniffs. "The studio isn't what brings people."

Yeah, but the live satellite feed doesn't hurt either. The cameo-in-everypot strategy makes for what Friedman calls "retail television," forging bonds with camera hounds on site and viewers at home, who, the idea goes, warm to a network they see as embracing folks like themselves. Though some fans have to resort to ruses to win that embrace, as when



two men snookered NBC into airing a kiss between them after luring cameras with a sign reading WILL U MARRY ME IILL?

Perhaps with such impromptus in mind, CBS will use glass that can instantly turn opaque. ABC, says Ross, will have its newsroom on the second floor to avoid "signs in the window or donkey ears on the weatherman." But if there's risk in going au naturel, it's a necessary one. The fishbowl studio had its original incarnation on Today in the 1950s, but today's versions are no retro gimmick; they're a sign that in the era of talk radio and Webcams, shows must increasingly share power with viewers, offering participation and interactivity. (MTV is the most extreme and savvy example, interrupting videos with a blitz of e-mail messages from viewers and taped fan interviews.) In the established broadcast paradigm, authorities dispensed news or coffee chat from enclosed strongholds. Now traditional media are adapting to the scary new-media age,



Two Colors, One Bond

PBS airs a powerful look at an interracial family

Only in the

most intimate

arena can we

see race as a

multifaceted

fact of life

NE OF THE MOST OFT-CITED EXCUSes for why the races don't mix more on TV is that they don't mix more off it. We may mingle at work and school, but the home remains mostly monochrome. The small-screen picture of race has inevitably suffered, for while in cop shows and historical movies race is an "issue," only in our most intimate domestic and social arenas can we see it as a multifaceted fact of life. For that reason alone, An American Love Story (PBS, Sept. 12-16, check local listings), a 10-hr. documentary about an interracial family, is noteworthy. What makes it extraordinary is how it shows a familyperiod-dealing with mundane life and marriage, from work to school to health scares, and on the way interrogates racial categories in America from every imaginable angle.

Bill Sims and Karen Wilson meet in 1967 in Ohio, where Bill, who is black, is regularly harassed for consorting with a white girl. The family eventually moves to

Queens, N.Y., and thrives as a benevolent, goodhumored fortress. But as elder daughter Cicily finds at college, the outside world eventually intrudes. The most hurtful prejudice she encounters is from black classmates-a situation that comes to a head when she spends a semester in Africa that deepens and complicates her identity. And yet

that self-fulfilling racist caution, "What about the children?," hardly obtains. Both Cicily and her sister Chaney have grown up well adjusted and confident, with a deep connection to both parents.

It is Bill Sims who emerges as the most fascinating subject. A blues guitarist whose career has stalled, he has grown depressed and developed a drinking problem. Moreover, we learn, he left two other children at an early age. When he returns to find his son facing prison, we see a stark negative of the nurturing idvll he and Karen have created. Yet Bill comes off as a devoted, likable father and husband who offers sharp insights on race.

Filmmaker Jennifer Fox spent a year and a half with the family through crises and celebrations, begging-like the none too subtle title-comparison to 1973's An American Family. But where that work shocked us by showing the suburban Louds falling apart, this one is surprising for the quiet strength

with which its family stays together. In the process it shows that racial rapport in America is elusive not just because of history or politics but also because, like Bill and Karen's difficult but triumphant love, it requires years of personal effort. Love Story will reward anyone who, at least, can spare 10 hours. -By James Poniewozik



MTV's hip Times Square locale

using their glass houses, in a way, to become home pages for their audiences. Fox News', in fact, functions almost like a 24-hr. Internet camera, mostly eschewing spectacles to show a quiet workaday parade of double-parked vans and office grunts-step out for your morning coffee at the right moment and you're a star. It's strangely soothing, like a human aquarium.

None of this, though, is like the faux living-room and rec-room sets that have been the norm-the designs for CBS's jewel box, still under feverish construction, look more like the bridge of a really cheerful star cruiser. To media-savvy audiences, the illusion of having tea in some millionaire anchor's parlor is hokey. They want to see television when they turn on the TV. "People know that vou're making a television show." says MTV executive vice president Dave Sirulnick. And thanks to these high-tech ant farms, now they can drop by to help.

REAL LAMB WRAPPED IN FOIL

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Of God and Doofus Teens

Outside Providence shows a different side of the Farrelly brothers—not so gross, more gentle

AD ATTITUDE, BAD WARDROBE, BAD study habits. Tim Dunphy (Shawn Hatosy) arrives at snooty Cornwall Academy with all that baggae spilling out of the trash bag he carries in lieu of the suitases he can't afford.

In his working-class back-story there are drugs, drink and a feedless but funny bunch of buddies. Also a paraplegic brother, a three-legged dog and a widowed father (Alee Baldwin) for whom tough love is a family tradition, not a catch phrase. It is he who has sentenced his son to a last-chance senior year in prep school, which strikes him as a better, if more expensive, alternative to reform school.

Outside Providence—the title refers to Tim's native habita, Pawtucket, R.I., as well as to the silence of God when it mysterious ways its wonders to perform once the doctors ways its wonders to perform once Tim settles in at Cornwall. There are a sedistic housemaster, a hidebound headmaster, a geeky roommate and a duplicitous pal to contend with, and the pretient girl on enampsu (Amy Snart) to two, the many content of the content of the content of the content of the contentment instead of contentmen.

Part of the answer, paradoxically, may lie in the way the film shamelessly, even joyously, keeps piling on that familiar material. At some point the sheer mass of it simply overwhelms dubiety. The fact that everything that happens in the movie comes as a surprise to its participants helps too. They apparently have not seen all the movies or read all the

books about adolescent angst. So their responses are fresh. And felt.

That's particularly true of Hatoy. He's not so much a goofball as a radical innocent trying to pick up the clues to the preppit lifetybe but at the same time remaining flercely loyal to his family and the control of the control of the control of the ty, and the actor engagingly lives it. Ditto Baldwin as his roughneck father, who has a depressive's shrewdness shout other people's weaknesses as well as a depressive's inshilly to do anything about his own life, which consists mainly of with his boow cronies.

These are both wonderful performances, with Baldwin's—coming on top of his superb movie-star parody in Noting Hill—opening up rich new territories for him to explore. But Outside Protidence is full of gorious actor's moments, and may finally owe its success to them. One begins to think, If all these people believe so wholeheartedly in this enter-

prise, maybe I ought to as well. Certainly it leads one to re-examine the premise of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. Up to now they have been our gross-out geniuses (Dumb & Dumber, There's Something About Mary), and Miramax wouldn't mind if you thought Outside Providence was more of the same. But adapting a novel by Peter and working with director Michael Corrente, the siblings, who also produced this film, maintain their best quality, which is a kind of unblinking frankness about our basic humanity, while skipping the bathroom jokes. You won't miss them at all -By Richard Schickel

Rock Candy

A sweetheart of a movie about the music business

UGAR TOWN OPENS WITH A WANNAbe rock star (Jade Gordon) making a list about how to achieve that status. Attending the Grammys with an old, paparazzi-attractive guy is high on it. Tony Bennett will do. Also Tony Curtis.

Don't bet against her. This kid will steal anything-a boyfriend, clothes, jew-els—to get to the top. And don't bet against Sugar Toune either. It's the kind of movie Robert Altman might make if he Doed on Elavil—a multicharacter comedy about the Los Angeles rock scene. Make that the trashed rock scene. For it's mostly about people who once had it, then lost it, but would like to find it again.

Central to Sugar Town, which was written and directed with casual aplomb



AFTERGLOW: D'Angelo and Des Barres are two of the standouts in a terrific ensemble

by Allison Anders and Kurt Voss, are the efforts of a new band, composed of old rodethe media and the media and the media and the the end, that comes down to getting one of them, played by Michael Des Barres; who is exclusively interested in teershoppers, to sexually service a potential backer, the historiously voracious Beverty D Angelo. The look on his fine when he discovers the poys of mature sex could serve as the which eventually touches—veryly, knowyly, forgivingly—ont least a does lives.

Mosfly they all—including the likes of Rosama Arquete, Ally Sheedy and a lot of people who. like the characters they lay, deserve to be better known—get what they want. Or at least manage to make the right compromises. Like the lives it recounts, Sugar Town comes to no resounding conclusion. But that indeterminacy is part of its seductiveness, and of its result of the truth.—R.S.

He writes brilliant jokes for celebrities. Can this top comic writer become famous on his own?

By RICHARD CORLISS

ETTE MIDLER TESTIFIES. "FOR YEARS I never said a word that Bruce didn't charge me for." Robin Williams: "This man cracks my asswith laughter." Nathan Lane: "He's given more great lines to celebrities than a Hol-

lywood coke dealer.' To receive such praise, from such stars, in public, you should have to be either God or dead. Bruce Vilanch is neither. He is a comedy writer. His name can't be found on film scripts or Broadway marquees or even as Executive Associate Creative Consultant on a UPN sitcom. Yet he is the unseen perp of some of the funniest. most famous or notorious moments in recent show-biz history.

Vilanch, 51, writes material for celebseveryone, he has said, "from ABBA to Zado ra"-to deliver on award shows, concert tours and the TV talk circuit. He has written for the past nine Oscar fests, and for the Tonys, Grammys, Emmys-any outlet for the entertainment industry's endless need to taunt and flatter itself. When stars are booked

for a big benefit, or for Leno or Letterman, they cry, Get Bruce! Which is also the title of Andrew I. Kuehn's fond, zippy new documentary about the Bruce who, on the Hollywood circuit, is the real Boss.

He has crafted most of Midler's routines, including her bawdy Sophie Tucker jokes ("I was in bed last night with m boyfriend Ernie ...") and her farewell song to Johnny Carson (You Made Me Watch You). He helped Billy Crystal with the '90s' most sit-throughable Oscar shows, capped by the 1993 genderbending song parody (to the tune of The Tender Trap): "Those eyes/ Those thighs/

Surprise!/ It's The Cruing Game." He was the writer when Whoopi Goldberg performed before President and Mrs. Clinton-and when Ted Danson did his blackface bit at a 1993 Friars Club banquet. "He told the worst, racist, dirty, just filthy aw-ful jokes," Vilanch recalls. "All mine." The assembled luminaries were embarrassed. now (as one of his 1.500 T shirts reads) AL-MOST FAMOUS, camping it up with Whoopi on the syndicated hit Hollywood Squares, for which he also serves as head writer.

This writing-class hero grew up in Paterson, N.J., the adopted son of an optometrist and a stagestruck housewife who performed in charity shows. Says Vilanch: "She'd sing, do sketches-she's naturally very funny-and I'd imitate her and her friends." At Ohio State he wrote reviews and appeared in plays. "I was going to be Neil Simon, batting out one Broad-way show after another." Then he joined the Chicago Tribune as a reviewercolumnist. One night he met the young Midler and said, "You're very funny. You

should talk more onstage." He began honing Midler's concert banter. One gig led to another, and voilà, a playwright was lost, a quick-draw comic artist born. Two decades earlier.

Vilanch might have been writing for Caesar (Sid. not Julius). But by the late '70s, comedy-variety hours were giving way to knockoffs of Dean Martin celebrity roasts. "The people who had done variety TV, and were now without a form, found one. We all shifted over into awards pageants." And, for Vilanch, benefits: he is a tireless fun and fund raiser for AIDS

research and other

had done "a lot of read-

As a child, Vilanch

poignant causes.

ing and a lot of watching of things." These habits are helpful in a job that demands a breadth of knowledge for potential comedy targets (he subscribes to 64 magazines and newspapers) and an acute ear for a star's persona, vocal rhythms and insecurities. Vilanch will be backstage with Raquel Welch before she

gives a speech he wrote, and in the wings on Oscar night to cue Crystal's on-thespot jokes about Jack Palance push-ups. Now that Vilanch is about to become more-than-almost-famous, we wonder: Who will be the comic wind in his wings? Who will be Vilanch's Bruce Vi-

lanch? And one other thing-those testimonials that Midler, Williams and Lane give in Get Bruce! Did Bruce write them? -Reported by William Tynan/New York

HOLLYWOOD SWEARS BY BRUCE VILANCH

















aghast. "I mean, they were like marble. You could have chiseled them.

Stars typically take the cheers or the heat for these moments: writers just take the money. It has ever been thus. Bob Hope's gagmen were awakened at 3 a.m. for emergency jokes; James Allardice wrote the droll TV monologues that made Alfred Hitchcock a household deity. But these scribes were as anonymous as the Roman speechwriter who whispered into the dving Caesar's ear. "Sav. 'Et tu. Brute?'" So it's nice that Vilanch, a wide guy with a blond mop that makes him look like an obscene Señor Wences puppet, is

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A Life Beyond the Grave

Still another biography seeks to explain the mystery and mystique of the Princess of Wales

THE WHOLE WORLD KNEW she was troubled-that was, in fact, part of her "Shy Di" appeal. Those who immersed themselves in the turbulent life and times of Diana, Princess of Wales. knew about her struggles with bulimia, her tendency to

throw herself down stairs, her unwise love affairs, her basic inability to stick with any notion for much longer than it took her to tire of her latest-albeit

fabulous-hairstyle. So in a sense what is being billed as the primary newsbreak of Diana in Search of Herself (Times Books; 451 pages; \$25), Sally Bedell Smith's biography of the late princess, is not news at all. "Diana's unstable temperament," Smith announces a bit ponderously, "bore all the markings of one of the most elusive psychological disorders: the borderline

personality. Though this "diagnosis" alone sheds virtually no fresh light on the subject Smithauthor of bios of CBS founder William Paley and international socialite Pamela Harriman-amply and sympathetially documents Diana's precarious mental state and her need for sustained professional help, a need that could

never have been met while she remained within the netherworlds of Buckingham Palace and celebrity

Smith conducted nearly 150 interviews and sifted through mounds of articles and books devoted to Diana for this volume. But despite entering an already overcrowded field, Smith has produced a well-written, evenhanded work. There is also, remarkably, still a bit of juice to be squeezed from this particular fruit. The world may have believed Diana was the "people's princess," but Smith unsparingly details how Diana let down almost everyone who knew her-including many of the charities that depended on her for support. And in her own affairs of the heart, she was self-destructive at best. Smith describes, for instance, Diana's relationship with cardiac surgeon Hasnat Khan, who broke up with her just weeks before she supposedly fell in love with Dodi al Faved. Desperate to hang on to Khan, Smith reports, Diana was willing to convert to Islam, and even



REVELATIONS: Still a bit of juice to be squeezed

ed family-without mentioning the trip

It is, Smith concludes, also highly unlikely that Dodi and Diana were planning to marry. Not only was that final diamond ring he bought her "vulgar," according to a friend, but, Smith writes, "the days they spent alone were a mere 25. They floated along in an existence that was intense and unreal ... [Their romance] was perhaps the clearest evidence that she had made little progress in dealing with her demons. Two summers ago, her fans wept, saying, Diana, we hardly knew ve. With this book, it is now safe to say, Diana, we know more than enough. -By Elizabeth Gleick



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Bad Medicine

The diagnosis is murder in a real-life doctor drama



JAMES B. STEWART'S BLIND Eye: How the Medical Establishment Let a Doctor Get Away with Murder (Simon & Schuster; 334 pages; \$25) is a persuasive case against Dr. Michael Swango, a handsome, overconfident physician suspect-

ed of poisoning between 35 and 60 patients and co-workers from Illinois to Zimbabwe.

to Zimbabwe. Witnesses have put Swango at the bedside of some victims moments before they died. Colleagues report his fascination with violence and the serial dilers Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy, Stocks of poisons and hypodermic meedles were found in Swango's living quarters. Let the Defe difficient of the properties of the collection of the series of the collection of the series with the collection of the series of of t

Stewart's copious findings indicate that hospitals fired Swango rather than risk liability suits and damaging publicity. But such butt covering does not support the subtitle's alarmist indictment of "the medical establishment." Yet the need to buck up Stewart's new book with a sensational subtitle is understandable. In his 1991 best seller, Den of Thieves, the author had the advantage of writing about financiers Michael Milken and Ivan Boesky, two super-rich felons rarely out of the limelight. Swango resists efforts to come alive on the page. He is a shadowy figure, an evasive loner with bizarre obsessions and an abundance of

low animal cunning. And he has not been convicted of a single murder. This pesky legality results in some narrative discordance. For 300 pages, Blind Eue has Swango killing people right and left. Yet Stewart's conclusion contains a flurry of qualifying statements like "Swango is the first alleged serial killer in this century to have emerged in the guise of a physician." However inconvenient, writers have to obey libel laws; too many lawyers are watching. But where were the language police when Stewart chose the word guise? It means semblance, and if we know anything for sure, it is that Swango did not resemble a doctor: he was one. -By R.Z. Sheppard

We thought we would teach our children about the world.

Now we find ourselves teaching the world about our children.

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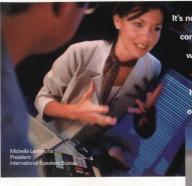
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SHORT TAKES

BOOKS

CYBERGYPSIES By Indra Sinha Ever wonder what going online was like before the dawn of the World Wide Web? Sinha offers an intriguing look at his spiral into Net addiction

spiral into Net addiction during the 1980s as he gets sucked into intense role-playing games and meets eccentric computer-virus writers and fellow Net addicts. Along the way, he discovers that experience is equally "real," whether online or

in the flesh. While the blurring of reality and illusion is not a new theme, Sinha's rich narrative and thoughtful observations propel this engaging memoir. —By Anita Hamilton

CINEMA

STIR OF ECHOES Directed by David Koepp Tom Witzky (Kevin Bacon) hardly seems the prescient sort. Yet when he is hypnotized at a party, he tumbles into nightmares—or is it another dimension?—

harboring fatal
a secrets. Scenarist
consistency furassic
consistency fu

ties to The Sixth

Sense. The payoff is relatively small change, but the setup is persuasive: a portrait of a blue-collar marriage in mute distress. And strap yourselves in for the spookiest, most imaginative hypnosis scene in movie memory. You are getting ... very ... scared. —By Richard Corliss

MUSIC

BITTER Me'Shell NdegéOcello Bassist, singer, sometime hip-hopper Me'Shell

NdegéOcello created a wakeup call in her first album, Plantation Lullabies, brimming with funk and flavor and attitude. Her new CD, Bitter, is more

of a good-night kiss, slow, atmospheric and a bit weepy. Bitter, which features narcoleptic production by Craig Street, has carefully struc-

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SHORT TAKES

tured songs and cautious vocals, but it lacks NdegéOcello's edginess and verve. The songs are about breakups and betray-al, but the emotion is buried. This album feels like that uncomfortable pause in an argument when there's nothing left to say or throw or do but sit quietly, crying tears of rage. —By Christopher John Farley

TELEVISION

GET REAL Fox, Wednesdays There have been few argu- x

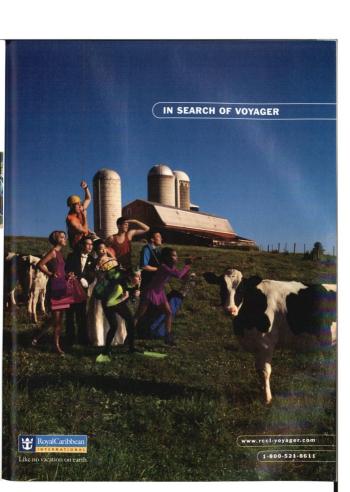
ments for corporal punishment as strong as this unintentionally depressing dramedy of domestic self-absorption. But it's hard to say who could use it most: the casually amoral kids, who spend half



the show delivering know-t-all voiceovers? The whip yarents? The sextalkin' grandma? Actually, it may be the show's makers, who have piled on a media-studies dissertation's worth of trendy fourth-wall-breaking, belabored pop references and defensive, reflexive saides: 'I know what you're reflexive saides: 'I know what you're thinking,' goes one. This is another one of those smart-ass shows where.' On, you lead to the audotenee.' On, you prontourself.



DRAGON TALES res, Weekdays Emmy and her little brother Max (and with names like those, you can bet their folks and the little brother folks of the little brother folks and are whished off in Dragon scale and are whished off in Dragon scale and are whished off in Dragon scale where they encounter a gaggle of warm, goofy reptilian friends to whom they are just as strange as the monsters are to them. Besides fantasy and rich, handpainted scenery, this animated series ofters an encouraging message—don't bearded for the stations—to a young acidence exploring its own realm of freaks the curiosities.



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Meat Loaf has parts in Fight Club and Crazy in Alabama, and is releasing his autobiography, To Hell and Back.

Q. How's everything going?

A. I'm a little tired from my golf weekend.
Q. Meat Loaf doesn't golf.

A. Of course Meat Loaf golfs.

Q. Oh, no. What's Meat Loaf's handicap?

Q. That's not so bad.

A. Alice Cooper's is like 2

Q. In Bat Out of Hell 2, you sing a song called Objects in the Rearriew Mirror May Appear Closer Than They Are. Could you sing a song called Caution: Filling Is Hot? A. That's great. Did you see the

Saturday Night Live skit?

Q. That's been used, huh?

Q. That's been used, huh?
A. Last year the new big guy did it.

Chris Farley and John Candy did me. Q. You think part of the tryouts to be the new fat guy is to do Meat Loaf?

A. I think so. I think it's an honor. Some people get upset. I read that Sharon Stone got upset when somebody did her.

Q. Your publicist told me to ask you what it's like to have bitch tits. Don't you think you need a new publicist?

A. You see, in Fight Club I have these enormous breasts because the character had testicular cancer and had to take female hormones.

Q. Was it kind of nice to have breasts?

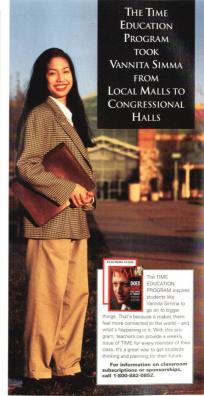
A. Everyone wanted to touch them. It gives you an idea how if you're a woman and you have these great-looking breasts, everybody wants to feel them.

Q. Your daughter, I'm told, is very attractive and worked on *Politically Incorrect*. How many times did Bill Maher hit on her?

A. She never told me. I'm sure he did.
Q. I really want to see you beat up Maher.
A. I really, really wanted to do Celebrity
Deathmatch with Natalie Merchant.
Q. Because she's so self-important?

A. Maybe. You said that; I didn't.

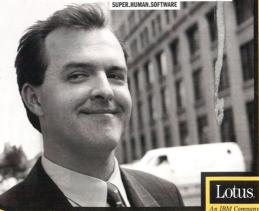
-By Joel Stein





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TIME SELECT FAMILIES

BACK TO SCHOOL

INSIDE

CLOTHES Dress codes and uniforms may stifle expression but they may also build confidence and allow students to concentrate on their work

SAFETY It takes a whole school to keep violence in check. How teachers, police and kids can create a place where students are free from fear-and free to learn

TECHNOLOGY This fall parents in many schools will have a new way of checking in on their child's news and needs-via the Web

HOME SCHOOLING Overall, the

outcome has been favorable for the growing ranks of children educated at home by their parents SEPARATION Saying goodbye can

be tough, but there are ways to increase the sweetness and reduce the sorrow of parting

COLLEGE PREP It's never too early to start envisioning the possibilities and payoffs of higher education

BOOKS Three that could prove useful as your kids return to school



Dress for Success

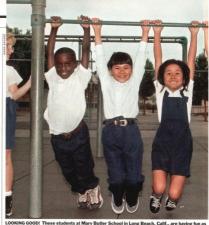
It looks as if uniforms and dress codes may well make a difference

By VALERIE MARCHANT

THIS FALL, SCHOOL DISTRICTS ALL OVER the U.S. are introducing uniforms or tightening dress codes so as to rule out all manner of garb deemed provocative—and the provided of t

UNIFORMS ARE IN

So enthusiastic are American families about uniforms that this year they will spend \$1.5 billion on them-triple what they spent just two years ago. By themselves, says Goldman, "school uniforms are not the answer to higher achievement or to closing the gap between minority and majority students." But a change in dress, particularly to a uniform, can have numerous positive effects. Students may become more self-confident and selfdisciplined, less judgmental of other students, better able to resist peer pressure and concentrate on schoolwork. Jean Hartman of Long Beach, Calif., was once an opponent of uniforms. But after they were made mandatory in her children's school district-where 66,000 students in 56 elementary schools, 14 middle schools and one high school now wear themthere were "fewer disruptions, fewer suspensions, better attendance," according to Dick Van Der Laan, the system's spokesman. Criminal incidents at the district's schools have decreased 86% since uniforms were mandated in 1994. "A uniform," Hartman now says, "breaks down any kind of social and economic barrier kids may put into place at that age, so everyone is on an even playing field." Marylouise Ortega-Lau, principal of the Wilson Classical High School in that dis-



trict, notes that "there is a more busi- | not represented to feel that they have any

trict, notes that "there is a more businesslike attitude as a result of wearing the uniform—and you need to show students how to deal in the world of work and business, where there are limits on dress."

If your child's school is considering adopting a dress code or requiring uniforms, here's some advice from those with experience:

GET INVOLVED

When parents inquire about the possibility of a change in dress code, the school board typically sends a survey to its families. If two-thirds of the parents surveyed respond positively, administrators, teachers, parents and students work together to come up with a code or uniform, along with incentives, compliance measures and means for providing free uniforms to needy families. A dress policy, says Van Der Laan, must be "parent driven." Only then is a new policy likely to succeed.

BE INCLUSIVE

Students should be part of the decisionmaking process. "You need student representation in any decision about clothing," insists Goldman. "If you are trying to build buy-in, you can't expect students that are not represented to feel that they have any connection."

WORK YOUR WAY UP

School administrators, including Renée Shackelford, principal of Flat Shoals Elementary, a year-round school in Georgia, have learned that if you are planning to introduce uniforms into the schools, it seasier to start with younger students. That's because, she explains, their "parents are still making a lot of the decisions."

MAKE IT EASY Choose a variety of garments, including

jumpers, overalls, shorts and sloots, as well as skirts and pasts, in classic, comfortable styles. Jayne White, an education professor at Missouri's Druy College, believes that young people cannot appear to be "walking to

44You need to show students how to deal in the world of work, where there are limits on dress."



KNOW THE LAW

There are guidelines that a school should follow to protect itself legally. Find out what your state's laws are with regard to codes and uniforms. Make sure the policy is reasonably clear to all those involved, lest a federal court rule it "void for vagueness. Says Perry Zirkel, Iacocca Professor of Education at Lehigh University: "[If your policy is clear], and you have reasonable justification [such as gang violence] for the limitation, the court will be on your side. Make sure that the policy does not attack anyone's point of view and does provide ways for students to express differences. particularly religious ones. Zirkel advises that a school "avoid confrontation, keep the lines of communication open and not overreact to noncompliance.

Imposition of a dress code or uniform should be one of several changes designed to improve standards in your school, and with those that promote more parental involvement and higher academic standards. Goldman believes that to introduce a new obtding policy as part of a wider array of thing. But he warms that "if done as a supposed quick fix, it is a terrible idea. Nothing is a quick fix in education."

MARYLOUISE ORTEGA-LAU, PRINCIPAL

How to Keep The Peace

Adults and students together must guard against school violence

By EMILY MITCHELL GREENSBORO

ALP ABERTYS SEND THEIR CHILDENS OF the start an enveloped with great expectations. They look forward to seeing the confidence that comes with mastering triends. Most of all, though, armanden child they ware they obe their children are safe. After last spring's tragedy at Columbina and the several bomb threats and should be considered they are they are the series of the confidence of the

That's why, for example, police, a bomb squad and a team of hostage negotiators descended on Grimsley High School in Greenborn, N.C., this 'August. Hostages had been taken, and the campus was under siege. It was all staged, with people acting the role of hostage takers, but here was nothing false about the purpose. Here was nothing false about the purpose, and the stage of the st

David Robinette, a Greensboro policeman who is beginning his fifth year as Grimsley's school-resource officer.

Students, teachers and parents need to be aware of what emergency plans are in place in their school, but responding to crises, as well as installing sophisticated security devices, is only part of a good schoolsafety program. Here are other things you as a parent should look for to assure that your child is as safe and free from fear as possible.

HANDS-ON ADULTS

School-safety advocates cite the impornance of having adults on hand. According to Ronald Stephens, director of the National School Safety Center, The single most effective safety strategy is the physical presence of a responsible adult. "At every presence of a responsible adult." At every rea in the hallways, chatting casually with students as they pass by. At lunchtime, reague and her staff roam the campus, saying hello and asking kids how they're doing. To the extent that every child is known, then a school is safe," Tengue says. The and will take."

POLICE PRESENCE

David Robinette parks his patrol car conspicuously on the campus, and throughout the day he roves the grounds and buildings. During the two 40-min lunch periods, he is in the cafeteria, eating with kids and talking to them. Several times a week, he is in front of a classroom, telling students about their legal rights and advising them on personal safety. Having a policeman in the school cuts. Lavarello, the control of the Southcuts I savarello, director of the South-



JOINING FORCES: To Grimsley students, Officer Robinette is a friendly, reassuring presence



member National Association of School Resource Officers. "It is a pro-active program that builds a relationship between law-enforcement officers and students."

IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION

Five years ago, a Grimsley student shot and wounded an assistant principal and then turned the gun on himself. "Our kids know they don't want to go down that road again," says Phil Weaver, chairman of the school's counseling department. If teachers spot a kid who's having trouble, they immediately talk to a counselor who can set up a family conference, and Teague meets weekly with the school counselors to keep informed of potential problems. A strong parent-teacher-student association makes sure kids and families are aware of all the resources available within the school. Notes Stephanie Cashwell, who has sent five children to Grimsley: "There are a lot of good listeners." While most other schools in the county received telephone bomb threats after the Littleton shooting. Grimsley had no such "copycat" calls. "It's a credit to the kids and the staff," says social studies teacher Joe Franks.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Kids are part of the solution. "To change a school environment, you have to mobilize all the resources," says Robert Myrick, an education counselor at the University of Florida, "and the best resources are the kids." A sense of security is reinforced when students feel they are part of the school and accepted by others. Like any other school. Grimsley has cliques and clusters of kids with shared interests, but students say that they exist without tension and that it is possible to bounce back and forth between groups. "It's a friendly environment," comments Tyler Brooks, who graduated last spring. Adds classmate Justin DeSimone: "We watch out for everyone.

FOCUS ON ACADEMICS

Research by the Center for the Prevention of School Violence suggests that schools emphasizing academies are safer. At Crimsley, 68% of last spring's 273 graduates entered a four-year college; 21% opted for community college. Principal Teague says: "We take students who have discipline and attendance problems and give them career initiatives and help them to body at Grimsley is saying violence caust refeding what it is to be successful." No-body at Grimsley is saying violence and and students talling and lisening, in other and students talling and lisening to other, they are doing their best to create a peaceful place for learning.

Start School With a Click

This fall you may see the school-lunch menu—and homework—online

ETTING READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL in the good old days of, say, 1997 meant a few trips to the mall, a quick check of the bus route and a thorough sweep of the stationery aisle. This year, for many parents, there are some new things to remember: the teacher's e-mail address, the school's website or which night online





CHECKING IN from a class trip to Germany, New York high-schoolers post photos online, top. A dad logs on to see the sights

homework help chat will be offered. The 1999-2000 school year will be the one where the majority of parents really feel the Internet's influence on their child's education at the everyday level," says Jonathan Carson, chairman and cisco of the Family Education Co., based in Boston, which offers an informational parenting website at familyeducation.com and a framework for local schools to create and maintain their own sites.

In some schools, last year provided a hint of what was to come. This year promises to show a quantum leap in the spread of school technology: parents in many districts can expect to be able to check the school lunch menu, read class notes, see activity calendars and, perhaps best of all online. The schools are writered says and all online. The schools are writered: says Carson. "A majority of parents now have access, and the educators are ready to go."

Over the summer, parents of high school German students in Hhaea, N.V., got to be part of a class trip to Europe, through their home computers. The class brought a digital camera and laptop with them to Germany and documented their visit on their web page. Harry Ash, father of 16-year-old traveler Brian, found it reassuring to see his son's smiling face from half a world away. "It gives me great comfort," Ash says, three

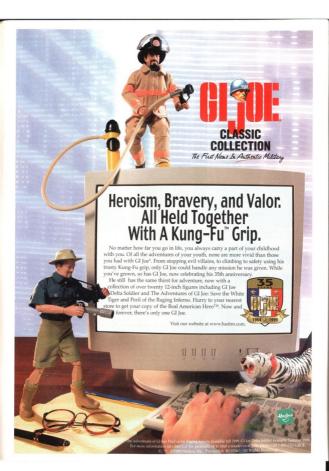
days into the monthlong in the interpolation of the

alternative to the paper memos Carson calls "backpack mail," about one-third of which never makes it home on any given day.

when the state of the state of

Ithaca high school physics teacher Steve Wirt gets e-mail from parents regularly, some from moms and dads he believes might otherwise not pick up the phone with a concern. Using software called Blackboard CourseInfo, designed to make website building intuitive for teachers, Wirt conducts online chats with his

448chools must plan for safety. 77 pamela riley, center for the prevention of school violence





students, often reviewing for a quiz or discussing homework problems.

But Ithaca may not be the average place to take high school physics, or to parent: physicist Carl Sagan sent his children through the district that shares its small city with enormous Cornell University. That doesn't mean every family in town has a computer in the home. Ithaca has discussed opening its computer labs to parents and the community after hours. We need to make sure we're not just reaching a fraction of the population, LaPier says. their child's privacy, as well-crims about their child's privacy, as well-crims about their child's privacy, as well-crims about coming around LaPier says.

The way things are going, by the end of this year, many parents may be fully converted—and in fact dependent upon their schools' feelnhological capabilities. At a recently wired school in Noori, Mich., the posting he lunch-menu calendar on the posting he lunch-menu calendar on the website, which was created with the help of Carson's Family Education Co. In that time, more than a dozen parents called him to request the information. "A year ago, it never would have been there," says Carrelance and the contraction of the co

Home-School Report Card

Parents are teachers for a million kids. But does home schooling work?

By FRANCINE RUSSO

LALISON, 27, OF HONER, S.D., MEpently landed an associate's job at the
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surprise, since, although he was editor of
lau wreiew at Note Dame, for most job
education, Allison didn't go to school—at
least not to a formed and one. Neither didn't
all the least not to a format one. Neither didn't
amendment of the landed and the least not to a format
markall Scholarship to the London School
of Economics following his graduation
from Brown (Inversity.)

For those parents who are considering home schooling as an alternative to America's often politicized and sometimes dangerous public and private schools, Allison and

TAD HEUER at his college graduation with his mother, above, his home teacher when he was 7 Heuer are attractive models. But

they may not be representative. Not all products of home ed turn out to be academic stars. Many home-educated students. like apprentice chef Rebecca Durkee, 22, of Livonia, N.Y., and Katie Harwood, 22, of Logan, Utah, a hospital accounting clerk, don't go to college at all. Nor are all homeschooling parents Bible-thumping Christians teaching their kids at apron-string length to protect them from sex, drugs and Darwin. In the gruesome wake of recent school shootings, a new cadre of parents are wondering whether home schooling is the best way to shield their kids from bullets. Ben's and Rebecca's parents did keep them close in a highly structured setting, mostly to instill Christian values. These families are from the right wing of home ed, while Katie's family is from the secular left or "unschooling" tradition whose clarion cry was "do your own thing." Tad's folks are among a host of middle-grounders who feel they are combining the best of both.

Home schoolers today total more than a million nationwide, estimates Patricia Lines of the U.S. Department of Education, who says their numbers tripled between 1990 and 1995 and are still growing. Yet how good an education they get is not well documented. Now, however, as the first wave reach their 20s, a glimpse of how they might turn out, academically and socially, is beginning to take shape.

The most recent research, published last March, backs up previous studies that came to favorable conclusions. Funded by the Home School Legal Defense Association but conducted by Lawrence M. Rudner, a respected independent statistician, the study found that 20,760 K-12 home-schooled students had median scores typically in the 70th to 80th percentile. But the sample, like previous ones, was overwhelmingly white. Christian, educated and affluent-and not comparable to a control group of public school children.

"Given the education level and affluence of the parents,"
observes Gerald
Bracey, an educational
analyst in Alexandria,
Va., "you could say,
Cosh, these lids could
do better." Mitchell
Skingdom of Children.
Pedagogy, and Politics
in the Home Schooling
Movement for the Princeton University Press, conton University Press, con-

cludes. "At worst, home schoolers are doing as well as the average public school idid."

Joseph Cirasuolo, superintendent of schools in Millingford, Conn., has seen the best and worst of home ed: "An excelent education, with computers plugged in," he says, and "horrible, with rote learning and outdated books." Teachers' groups, like the National Education Association, urge stricter regulation, but all 50 states now permit home schooling, with regulations ranging from degree requirements

Home schooling, as it is currently practiced, is something of a missomer. There are a wealth of options—many of them centered outside the home. You can buy a prepackaged curriculum or make it buy as you go. Many families mix and match kitchen-table lessons with classes at other parents' houses, apprenticeships and even—where permitted—public school or college courses.

for parents in North Dakota to little or no

oversight in Texas and Oklahoma.

Rebecca Durkee's mom taught her exclusively at home from structured lesson plans—no evolution, thank you. Studying to be a chef, Rebecca had to learn how to do 'self-motivated work," while Katie Harwood recalls "learning what we wanted, nostly arty things." Tad Heuer took violin

44The preponderance of evidence is, they're fine. 77 — MARY ANNE PITMAN, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

I'm happy to lose my eyebrows.

Bill Fries LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE SAFETY SPECIALIST







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and art classes at public school to supplement home-taught history and literature studies that included visits to Civil War battlefields and 19th century authors' homes.

Nowadays, nearly all home-schooling families belong to one or more of a growing number of local support networks, which organize field trips, soccer teams, even orchestrass. Though some educators are worried that these families are opting out of a common society, others note that private schools and even some public ones can be just as insular.

A slew of doctoral dissertations, none definitive, have been written on the social adjustment of home schoolers. Mary Anne Pitman, a social anthropologist at the University of Cincinnati, says, "The preponderance of evidence is, they're fine."

But are you the best person to teach your child? What if your kid years to clamber up the school steps every day clutching her Hello Kitty lunch pail? "When people are trying to teach unwilling children," says Dorothy Werner, a 1970s "unschooler" from Chicago, "it doesn't work well. But home schooling is very affirming to children because they get a tremendous amount of attention."

Tremendous is the operative word if you're considering home ed. Although some dual-career couples and single parents at tempt it, 95% of home-schooling families have one parent who is not working outside the home. Parents have to act as teachers, administrators, social directors and more. Many just plain burn out before high school.

For his children, Ben Allison believes home schooling is a feasible and beneficial option. "My mother will be disappointed if I don't home-school my kids," says Katie Harwood plaintively. Will she? "No."

Parting with Less Sorrow

Saying goodbye is hard, but there are ways to minimize the pain

By MEGAN RUTHERFORD

so awful that 40 years later, Stephanie Johnson remembers every miserable detail. Raised by a stay-at-home mother, she had never spent much time with kids her age before. Arriving at school late, she



endured the cold, silent stares of 30 other children as the teacher found her a seat. When her mother abruptly vanished, she felt abandoned, and her sniffling escalated into wails. "I felt like a garbage can deposited at the curb on trash day," she recalls.

She was determined that her son Jeremy would fare better. So the year before he was to start kindergarten, she overcame her lifelong shyness and began to canvass her California neighborhood, introducing herself to kids and their parents and setting up play dates with Jeremy's future classmates. In late summer, knowing that teachers often fix up their classrooms in the weeks before school starts, she dropped by the school so she and her son could meet his teacher, who invited them to look around the room. "I think we succeeded," Johnson says. "Jeremy is a happy, social child who, I am happy to say, occasionally gets into trouble for talking in class."

At some time in their life, all children experience distress—commonly called separation anxiety—when saying goodbye to parents. But as Stephanie Johnson can attest, the suffering can be kept to a minimum—which is important, since the way early separations are handled, psychologists believe, can influence how people

manage transitions throughout their life.

Many parents who helped their children master separation in day care are caught by surprise when it erupts again in

preschool or kindergarten—or eveni. It's a process, "says Mary Ucci, director of the Child Study Ucci, director of the Child Study pen once. It hap to the Child Study pen once in the

Far from being aberrant, clinging to parents is instinctual, adaptive behavior. "Human children are very fragile and vulnerable compared with animals that can move independently from the parents or some other connected adult," says Ucci.

PLAY GAMES

For young children, games such as peekaboo and hide-and-seek reinforce the concept that people continue to exist even when they are no longer visible.

PRACTICE SEPARATING

"Having successful experiences, in the sense of getting through it O.K., even with tears, is really the only way to get used to separating," says George Burns, principal of Fieldston Lower School in New Tork Gity, Make play dates with kids in your child's class. Visit the classroom ahead of time to familiarize your child with new surroundings.

STICK AROUND

"Coing cold turkey doesn't work," says Sara Wilford, director of the Sarah Lawrence College Early Childhood Center in Bronx-Wile. N.T. So plan to stay with your child as director of the Sarah to stay with your child as few days. When she becomes engrossed in an activity, you may be tempted to slip away without saying goodbye. Don't. "If the parent sneaks out, a child never knows what to expect and will cling even more," says Amy Family Center. Once you've saids. Street, leave. "Don't prolong it," says Ucci. "That's just exerciacting."

It's important to address separation amxiety quickly. Social connections and daily routines coalesce in the first few days of the year, and children who are absorbed in their own distress will miss out on these significant developments. A good strategy with an older child is to help him take charge, says New Jersey psychologist Nancy Devlin.

44Separation is not an event. It's a process. 77 — MARY UCCI, WELLESLEY CHILD STUDY CENTER



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Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) invite you to take part in Explora/Nsion, the larges H.12 student science competition in North America. Now in its eighth winning year, Explora/Nsion has just been updated to be even more advanced. Here's how it works: You and other students who wish to participate form teams of two, three or four to "explore" a technology of your choice and then imagine a unique 'vision' of what will be possible with that technology in the year 2020. As part of your entry, your team provided sample sketches of web screens promoting your idea. Then, if you're among the 24 regional winning teams, your school will receive a complimentary laptop computer and software for your use in creating an actual veb site. This year, Explora/Nsion prizes include:

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Total Services

"Ask, 'What is it about school that bothers you?' Then ask, 'What can you do to solve this problem?' Parents rush in to solve problems that children can solve themselves."

In early adolescence, separation anxity may take the form of stage fright. "Adolescents have a sense that they're onstage and everyone's looking at them," asys Harriet Lenk, professor of child development at the Bank Street Graduate School of Education. Feeling conspicuous whenever he leaves the home portal can fill a youngster with dread. How can parents help? "Listen belowed the home they free home selves do when they feel anxious and discust the child's options," advises Lenk.

Though separation anxiety tends to abate as kids mature, it is not uncommon for it to recur when a teenager heads off to college. Sometimes the anxiety felt by the student is exacerbated by parents who call constantly to assuage their own panes.

Keep in mind that homesickness can be normal even in college. "It usually means they have a good home and good family they're leaving," says Cail Bell, associate director of career planning and counseling at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, where last year frou of 200 freshmen sought counseling for homesickness. That's the happy side of separation sadness.

College Prep Starts Early

It may help to begin the process for kids as early as third grade

By JILLIAN KASKY

TO DOLORES HUBETA ELEMENTAW School in Norwalk, Calif.; Juan Carlos Ledez-lin Norwalk, Calif.; Luan Carcia, two Whitter College students who had come to Whitter College students who had come to white College students who had come to the idea of the College students who had come to the idea of the College students who had come to the idea of the College students who had come to the idea of the College students who could answer questions ranging from what the food is like to how easy it is to make friends at college. It was, plain and make the college in the college in the college in the college of the



gram, "we hope to catch younger kids before the alternative attractions show up."

At such a young age? Because of a growing recognition that colleges need to reach out if they are to attract the best and brightest applicants from an increasingly diverse population, and because parents are more anxious than ever about their children's prospects for higher education, "tracking"-or predetermining kids' educational and career paths-has become the latest strategy in the college-admissions game. "Kids need to hear the message that anyone can go to college and need to know how to make that possible," says Diana Phillips, director of the U.S. Department of Education's middle school initiative, Think College Early. "In many households, the idea of talking about college doesn't exist,' says Phillips, whose program's goal is to let all kids, regardless of family income or their parents' educational level, know they have a chance to earn a college degree.

"All kinds of initiatives are springing up all over the country," says Ann Coles, executive director of the Higher Education Information Center and founder of Kids to College, a program that each year gives 2,000 Massachusetts grade school youngsters a chance to learn about and see colleges. In 1991, when Kids to College began, there were about 20 such programs in the country. Today, she says, there are more than 1,000, including ones sponsored by Exxon and the AFL-CIO.

It may seem premature to expose thirdgraders to an ordeal
that will be hard
enough when they are
17-year-old high school
seniors. But since it is
probably inevitable and
possibly even helpful,
here are some tips from
admissions officers and
college counselors on
how to get a healthy
jump on college:

Visit colleges early.
You don't have to decide
which one your child
will attend, but introducing him to campus
life makes it easier to
set personal goals.

Build strong lan-

guage, math and critical-thinking skills early by playing educational games at home. Encourage your child to take the most challeng-

ing courses offered in school. Stanford boasts that its freshman class usually comprises students who have taken the

prises students who have taken the toughest classes offered—and earned A's.

• Encourage her to play a sport or engage in some other extracurricular activity. Even the most highly selective colleges

seek students who can do more than press their nose to the books. As your child moves into high school,

the search becomes more precise:

Investigate prerequisites at schools your child may consider. As more colleges begin to require proficiency exams, many students are assigned to remedial courses regardless of their high school transcript.

 Meet with her high school guidance counselor during her freshman year.
 Counselors are a good connection to a wealth of college resources. Plus, when a counselor knows a student personally, her recommendation can be valuable.

 Offer your child a meaningful, essayworthy adventure—an eye-opening experience he'll want to repeat to others.

With all this going on between third and 12th grades, your child might even get a few applications in by the deadline senior year.

For further information on college admissions, see the Time/The Princeton Review 2000 edition of The Best College for You, available on newsstands and in bookstores now

Kids need to hear the message that anyone can go to college. 77 — DIANA PHILLIPS, U.S. DEPT. ED.



SYLLABUS Elementary school made simple Teen time Beyond the return to basics

Your kids aren't the only ones who can prepare for school. These books will help you get up to speed as well:

What REALLY MAP

FIRST IN SCHOOL

A Guide to Your

Child's Emotional,
Social, and Intellec
Grades K-5 (Hyper

Grades K-5 (Hyp

that you did," writes parenting expert Ann LaForge. Her book is a commonsense road map to modern elementary schools for parents. LaForge interviewed teachers, principals, school psychologists and other experts to develop her profiles of classrooms in each grade. She urges every parent to make a commitment to stay involved in his or her child's education, whether by volunteering, reading all the papers the school sends home, supervising homework or even making sure that a child gets a good breakfast. Sound like too much homework in these busy times? "Your child's success at school," writes LaForge, "has to be important enough for you to want to find the time and energy to stay on top of what's happening in the classroom."



THE RISE AND FALL OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER (Bard) Americans tend to view the teenage

Americans tend to view the teenage years, from puberty to the prom, as a singular life passage. But author Thomas Hine reminds us that for most of our history, those between 13 and 19 did not

move in lockstep through their education—or even attend school—and that the word teenager dates back only to 1941. "What was new about the idea of the teenager at the time the word first appeared during World War II," writes Hine, "was the assumption that all young people—regardless of their class, location or ethnicity—should have essentially the same experience,

spent with people exactly their age, in an environment defined by high school and pop culture." In his thoughtful book, Hine traces the history of teenagers in America, and the development of the modern high school, while questioning some of our presumptions about "the noble savage in blue jeans, the future in your face," Hine challenges the idea that teenagers should automatically be held back in their schooling, employment and sexual development for the sake of uniformity. Get ready for an even greater impact of the high school generation, writes Hine, "In the first decade of the 21st century, America can anticipate the largest generation of teenagers in its history, one even larger than the baby-boomer generation that entered its teens four decades ago."



OUR CHILDREN
DESERVE
Moving Beyond
Traditional
Classrooms and
"Tougher Standards" (Houghto
Mifflin) "Any

"Tougher Standards" (Houghton Mifflin) "Any number of people subscribe to the Listerine theory of acation," writes author

Alfie Kohn, "The old ways may be distasteful, but they're effective." Kohn, a well-known education critic. argues that the current back-to-basics movement is wrongheaded. This provocative book is for those with a taste for education at 10,000 ft., who want to catch up with the latest theoretical developments. Kohn dives into the culture-war arguments with relish, claiming that there is a misguided "aggressive nostalgia loose in the land." He mocks much of the current dialogue. "People from parents to Presidents have begun to sound like cranky, ill-informed radio-talk-show hosts," he writes, "and almost anything can be done to students and to schools, no matter how ill considered, as long as it is done in the name of 'raising standards' or 'accountability." You'll never again listen to a speech about education the same way after reading this book.

-By Andrea Sachs

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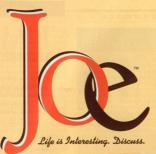
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FALL ISSUE ON SALE SEPTEMBER 8



A-Plus Software

Some new programs make the horrors of school homework much more palatable

pens and paper. You even broke down and got **Anita Hamilton** your kids a few stylin' pairs of cargo pants, so you don't have to look at their long faces as they sullenly contemplate another nine-month jail term of homework. But before you walk out of Target or K Mart, consider a stop in the software aisle. The latest reference and productivity packs could actually help cheer up your kids

better. Here are my top picks for students in junior high and up:

If you buy only one software product for your kids this year, make it the Encarta Reference Suite 2000 (\$64 with rebate). which includes an encyclopedia, atlas and dictionary. I love the detailed, virtual tours of natural wonders (like volcanoes), ancient ruins (Pompeii) and picturesque cities (Prague). When it's time to get serious, the homework helper suggests essay topics, then shows how to research and organize a report. Kids can cut and paste information onto electronic "note cards" included in the program, then export them to a word processor for editing and arranging. In addition to the basic encyclopedia entries for each topic, there are well-chosen Web links. These proved to be just what I needed for my personal research on the Dalai Lama. I subsequently skipped to the dictionary for a definition of Buddhism and then went to the atlas to pinpoint Tibet. Having all those resources in one place really helped speed up the project.

in another way-by helping them get their homework done faster and BACK-TO-SCHOOL SOFTWARE SURVIVAL KIT

> ✓ A REFERENCE GUIDE FOR THOSE BORING ESSAYS ✓ A CD-ROM FOR BANNERS, FLYERS, WEB PAGES, REPORT COVERS AND NEWSLETTERS ✓ A TYPING TEACHER WHO CAN'T SEE YOU CHEAT

For artistic projects Broderbund's Print Shop Deluxe, Version 10 (\$50),

is a smart choice. At first I was worried that the stark interface on this graphics program would mean it was for advanced users only. But when I discovered the premade templates for each project type, such as banners, flyers, newsletter and Web pages, I knew I was in luck. I started by making a tongue-in-cheek newsletter about my weekend, and found I could do everything from selecting photos or clip art

I love

y purple

(out of the database of 150,000 images) to experimenting with fancy text styles, without even peeking at the manual. Even better, once I finished my newsletter. I found I could apply the same techniques to banners, flyers and Web pages. Since I didn't have to learn anything new, I whizzed through my next projects. High school and college students should have little trouble getting comfortable with Print Shop, but younger kids may want some help from Mom or Dad. As for me, I felt I was a pro in less than an hour.

I wish I could say the same for Broderbund's Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing, Version 10 Deluxe (\$50), but the truth is, my fingers ache after each lesson. In my mind I know this is a good product, but learning to type properly is hard work. Still, Mavis' perky comments like, "Look out,

world, here comes a great typist!" are reassuring-especially when I'm typing 15 words a minute, And the program adapts its lessons to tackle weak spots-in my case anything not on the home row. For a break, kids can play games like Far-off Adventure, in which typing in rhythm with accompanying mu-

sic keeps a hot-air balloon afloat on the screen. The CD-ROM even has charts and graphs to track students' progress. A flexible program, it adapts the

complexity of its language to the age of the budding typist, beginning at age eight. Someday I hope to become good enough to tap out a sonnet, one of the advanced options. But at the rate I'm going, let's just say I'm not holding my breath.

For Encarta, visit microsoft.com; for Print Shop and Mavis Beacon, visit broderbund. com. E-mail Anita at hamilton@time.com

BOY MEETS GIRL In case you're in any doubt about how far we still have to go before toys for boys and toys for girls find a happy genderfree middle ground, take a look at the latest high-tech dolls. In October girls ages 5 and up can get Playmates' Amazing Ally (\$50), a blond-haired, blue-eyed tot

who favors pink-and-purple outfits and loves having tea parties and playing ballerina. Meanwhile, boys 4 and up get Toy Biz's Tuff Talkin' Wrestlers (\$40)based on actual World Championship

Wrestling performers-who like to pummel one another. Witty conversation is not their strong point. The brutish wrestlers grunt, "My tattoo is tougher than you," whereas wide-eyed Ally coos, "These teaparty shoes are sweet!"

So they're not role models, but they can still be fun. Electronic sensors in the wrestlers' chests let them recognize one another-all the better to hurl pointed insults like "Goldberg, you can't survive my

Jackknife Powerbomb" in the actual voices of the real-life wrestlers they resemble. Ally, for her part, prefers making nice. Squeeze her hand, and she will tell you a joke or play guessing games. Sensors all over her body let her recognize exactly what she is wearing or holding s she can ask girls to change her barrette or hand her the teapot. By attaching a touchpad to a small port on Ally's watch, girls can input their favorite color or request an adventure story. A polite child, Ally is sure to oblige.

But chances are, she won't be inviting the guys over for cake anytime soon.



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beer or wine to teenagers at

home may actually decrease

the allure of drinking. While

that sounds logical (and very

sophisticated), I think the

more legitimate lesson is

that there are simply some

privileges and pleasures that

should be confined to adults.

We teach our children more

by demonstrating how we

handle our liquor than by

teen something sophisticat-

ed to go with dinner, try of-

fering an extra portion of

you. A different survey of

2,000 teenagers released last

week shows a direct rela-

tionship between teen sub-

stance abuse and the lack of

close familial connections-

If you want to give your

giving it to them.



No School for Sots

The family dinner table is the place to train your college-bound kids to think-not drink

"EVERYTHING IS AN OCCASION TO DRINK-HAPPY OR sad. We just drink for any reason." That's what I Amy Dickinson heard on campus last week when I asked a group of

college upperclassmen to comment on a full-page newspaper ad signed by 113 college presidents. The ad features a huge bottle of "Binge Beer" and warns parents that binge drinking on campus has reached dangerous proportions. The awareness campaign, spearheaded by Graham Spanier, president of Penn State, is backed up by a study of binge drinkthat serving the occasional

ing released by Harvard's School of Public Health, in which 43% of college students were identified as binge drinkers. That means they drank five or more beers or drinks (four for women) at least once in the two-week period before the study. One-fifth of all college students are "frequent" binge drinkers, consuming an average of 17.9 drinks a week. The Harvard study also shows that nearly a third of all students start college with binge-drinking problems. "The kind of drinking going on today is very different from what parents might remember when they attended high school or college," Spanier said. And indeed, what I heard anecdotally is that these binge

to pass out. Out of a group of 18 students I spoke with at a small liberal-arts college near my home, five said they had been hospitalized at one time with alcohol overdoses. Two had been involved in separate incidents on campus over the previous weekend in which students they were with overdosed and were treated by paramedics. The students also told me that while they take complete responsibility for their actions. however stupid, the atmosphere on campuses is very beer-friendly. Anyone can get a keg, they say, or find someone of legal age who will. The local bars card them, "but that's a joke." They drink, they say, because

drinkers are drinking not to get silly but

they want to. They overdrink because they I know there are many people who feel

don't know any better.



43% of students That's about 3 MILLION college students

20% of all students are frequent ingers, who imbibe an average 18 DRINKS a week

especially between children and their fathers. I asked my group of college students what they thought society could do for them-more ad campaigns, safer campuses, a lower drinking age? To a person, they said the real education should happen at home, starting well before they are teenagers, maybe as young as age seven. ("By the time you're a teen, you've stopped listening," said one.) The best approach, they said, is for parents to try to have an ongoing discussion with them, to listen rather than lecture and to provide a good example. They also thought the "Binge Beer" ad was lame. Why? "Because," they said, "by the time we're in college, no matter what you say to our parents, it's already too late."

For more information on binge drinking, see our website at time.com/personal. You can e-mail Amy at timefamily@aol.com

SENIORS AND WORK Baby boomers. note: retirement no longer means lounge chairs and unread novels. A survey out last week says 1 in 5 retired Americans ages 50 to 75 work for pay: 42% of those not yet retired have plans to do so; 60% of both groups do volunteer work. Some reasons: longer active life and healthier self-esteem, Respondents' least favorite labels: "elderly" and "golden ager."

How seniors say they plan to spend their postcareer years Starting new activities 68% 28% Some of 6%

BABY BLUE ... OR PINK? Expectant moms: your guess about your baby's sex is, overall, no better than chance, says a survey. But researchers did find that women with 12 or more years of education were correct 71% of the timefar more than less-educated women, whose accuracy rate was 43%. More puzzling: the most accurate predictors were women who relied on dreams or gut



feelings, not physical signals. Still, says Johns Hopkins study co-author Janet DiPietro, none of the above dare "run out and paint the nursery pink or blue."

BACK TO SCHOOL Students carry more stuff in backpacks these days, including laptops and athletic clothes. Doing so the wrong way, warns the American Physical Therapy Association, can lead to back pain and even scoliosis-especially for pubescent girls, who are at greater risk

buy packs with wide straps (narrow ones can cut off circulation). wear both straps and make sure the pack is no more than 15% to 20% of body weight. Harriet Barovick





Prez N the Hood

The Clintons move next door, breaking rules, raising a ruckus and (I hope) boosting prices

I'M CUILTY WHEN WORD GOT OUT LAST WEEK THAT Bill and Hillary Clinton had settled on a house just Daniel Kadlec up the street from me in Chappaqua, N.Y., the first thing I did was hop in my car and do a drive-by. How can I deny it? Half

the village was there. With the stroke of a pen (and imminent transfer of \$1.7 million), the First Couple have managed to turn a quiet suburban cul-de-sac into the surest spot in town to be seen.

We locals have a lot of questions. How long will they stay if Hillary

fails to win a Senate seat from New York next year? Will the daily parade of cars ever stop? Has the Secret Service bugged our phones? Would we know an international spy if we saw one? Does that omnipresent helicopter mean the end of nude sunbathing? Most important: What will happen to property values?



NEW DIGS: The Clintons stretched their budget to latch on to this gem

This last question applies broadly to the presence of celebri- | did fine. They bought in a top-rated school ties, and many people are asking it. CEOs and athletes have long sought the privacy and comforts of affluent suburbs. But these days ceos are famous enough to attract attention and athletes are wealthy enough to move wherever they want. Movie stars have begun leaving Hollywood for rural spaces, furthering the infiltration of fame. When it arrives, so does the circus

Celebrity enclaves such as those in Sun Valley, Idaho; Nantucket, Mass.; and the Hamptons on Long Island boast some of the priciest digs in the world. The celebs made that happen, no doubt. But their impact on less glitzy neighborhoods is unclear. Chappagua is a rural bedroom community that prizes solitude. Glitz is bad-Yet a sitting President's decision to buy in our town is a ringing endorsement. Real estate agents will trumpet it and attract more potential buyers and prop up values.

In the 1980s, Richard Nixon bought a similar home in a similar community, Saddle River, N.J. After the initial hoopla, values throughout town edged higher, says veteran Realtor Tommi Josse, at an area Weichert Realtors office. "It added pizazz, and people wanted to move in," she declares. So maybe the Clintons have done Chappaqua a favor.

Still, if you're house hunting you'd do better to pay attention to these simple rules of residential real estate (see where the Clintons messed up) than to search out a spot with high-profile homeowners:

► Location. This is rule No. 1, and it's so important that if you get it right, it will offset almost any home-buyer mistake. The Clintons

district near reliable mass transit into Manhattan. They can be reasonably sure of getting their money out, reasonably quickly, anytime they sell.

▶ Budget. Don't overreach, especially if a big raise isn't in the cards. This leads to stress and seriously erodes quality of life. The Clintons may have erred. With debts of \$5.5 million and assets of just \$1.5 million, they and their bankers are clearly counting on lucrative book contracts and other ventures after the President's term expires.

► Size. There's not much you can do to increase the value of the biggest house on the block. The Clintons have it. The house next door goes for about \$550,000.

▶ Privacy/noise. No one really wants to live on a highway or in full view of his neighbors. The Clintons did as well as they could on this score. They're off the main road and on a full acre with a lot of mature trees. If that doesn't keep out oglers, the Secret Service will. As for noise, well, Chappaqua is a serene little hamlet-or at least it was before the Clintons decided to move in.

See time.com/personal for more on home buying. Dan is a regular on CNNfn TV and BNN radio when he's not at his neighbors'

SOFTWARE WARS Sun Microsystems is giving away an entire suite of Microsoftcompatible office software, from word processing, spreadsheet and presentation programs to calendars and e-mail. Download the free 65-MB StarOffice at www.sun.com (this may take a while) or pay \$10 for a CD. Mac users must wait for the universally compatible Web-based version, Star-Portal, to offer the same applications

and store their data online. creating truly portable desktops



NIGHT MOVES On www.MarketXT.com. small investors can buy and sell the 200 largest stocks on the N.Y.S.E. and NASDAQ from 6 to 8 p.m. E.T., but certain trading restrictions can make the after-hours market more volatile. Thin trading volumes can lead to major price swings, and risk-limiting stop-loss and gooduntil-canceled orders are not allowed. Since all traffic must go through online brokers-so far, only Discover and Dreyfus offer the



nighttime servicedelays and other computer problems may foul up profits. For more info, read MarketXT's rather lengthy disclosure.

LEMON WATCH Donating your clunker to charity? Beware of ads promising "full Blue Book" value deductions regardless of condition; you may be giving your car away to for-profit companies that team up with or pose as charities. Red flags include handing the car over to someone with no visible ties to the charity, i.e., Joe's Wrecker Service, or being asked to leave the new title blank. Check the group's tax-exempt status on www.irs. ustreas.gov, and get a receipt. The IRS is

also nailing those who overstate the value of their cars, so keep a photo or mileage record in case the deduction is contested. -By Julie Rawe





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Misjudged Threat

The word about AIDS still needs to get out. especially among African Americans

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE'VE SEEMED TO BE ON the way to winning the war against AIDS. But last

Ian Smith, M.D. week we got a chilling reminder that victory is still not in sight. It came in the form of some grim statistics from the nation's first large-scale HIV-prevention conference, held in Atlanta by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although the number of aids deaths has dropped to slightly fewer than 20,000 a year, off 60% from 1995, a closer look at the figures indicates

that it is much too early to even think about uncorking the champagne. While the number of deaths declined 42% from 1996 to 1997, they were off only 20% from 1997 to 1998. In short, the decline is slowing. We're actually losing ground.

One explanation is the diminishing effectiveness of medications used against the stubborn virus, which is showing signs of developing resistance to even

also apparent, however, that another factor is at work. The very success of the drugs has made us forget that the best way to fight AIDS is prevention, and that's the second important message out of Atlanta.

Nowhere is this harsh reality more evident than among African Americans, a special focus of the conference. In 1984 the CDC reported that 50% of all children infected with the virus in the U.S. were African Americans, By 1988, African Americans accounted for 70% or more of the AIDS cases among heterosexual men, heterosexual women and children. These alarming statistics haven't got much better since then. Even now, African Americans have an AIDS incidence and a death rate that are 10 times those of whites.

In part, the problem is misinformation. Explains Dr. Helene Gayle, director of AIDS prevention at the CDC: "First and foremost is the fact that this epidemic got cast as a white disease, particularly a white gay disease, and that lulled people into a sense of denial in the African-American community." The result: too many heterosexual African-American males still think it's

New AIDS Cases

perfectly safe to practice unsafe sex with female partners.

But how do you change risky habits? Clearly, as emphasized by counselors from Gay Men of African Descent. an organization based in New York City that advises young adults, it's important to know the cultural heritage of your audience. While it may make sense to recommend that teenagers

and young adults use the powerful new protease inhibitors. It's | condoms, you must be aware that many young African Americans view them as a challenge to their manhood.

You'll also hear something else from young African Americans: they are no longer afraid of the disease. After all, they'll tell you, if a celebrity with AIDS like former pro-basketball star Magic Johnson, who has done so much to bring attention to the epidemic, can continue his glitzy lifestyle without any obvious ill effects, why should theu worry about the virus? You'll also hear some sophisticated advice. Many youngsters will tell you that showing pictures of the devastation caused by the disease could provide effective shock therapy.

The CDC is reaching out to African-American church leaders in the hope that they will use the power of the pulpit to get out the word about AIDS. Let's hope the tactic works. At this critical moment in the AIDS epidemic, what happens next will depend largely on how well we educate-and how well people listen.

For more information on AIDS and race, see our website at time.com/personal. You can e-mail Ian at ianmedical@aol.com

GOOD NEWS

PROTEIN POWER Researchers have long

thought that what you eat may help you prevent breast cancer. Now they're finding that diet may help you survive after the disease has been diagnosed. Data on 120,000 nurses

suggest that protein from poultry and dairy foods—but not from red meat-may reduce by one-third

the risk of dving of cancer. Cutting down on fat, however, doesn't seem to make a bit of difference.

DEJA VU DRUG A largely abandoned 30year-old drug may soon be back in pharmacies. A major study shows that Aldactone, used together with newer drugs like ACE inhibitors, can cut death rates from severe congestive heart failure by a third, possibly saving tens of thousands of lives a year. And it's easy on the wallet, costing just pennies a day.

BAD NEWS

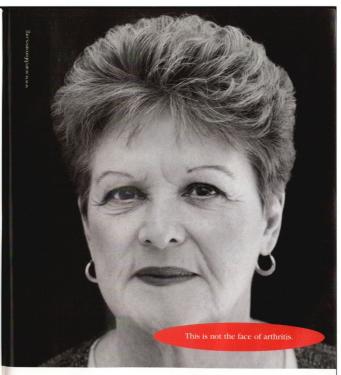
when you ride a bike.

HELMETS ON! Talk about headaches, Researchers have yet to prove it in humans, but a blow to the head of a pig may result in an injury that triggers brain lesions in the porcine brain that are remarkably similar to what's seen in human Alzheimer's patients. Though the findings are preliminary, they send a clear message: Watch out for speeding balls, swinging racquets and flying hockey pucksand always wear a helmet

LESS IS MORE Aspirin, the oldest of wonder drugs, has been recommended for years as a way of preventing a recurrence of stroke. But what about aspirin for folks who've never had a stroke? It's O.K. to take it within limits up to one tablet a day seems enough to protect against common thrombolytic stroke, but two tablets a day doubles the risk of hemorrhagic stroke, an event far more likely to be fatal.

-By Janice M. Horowitz

Sources—Good News: Cancer (9/1/99), New England Journ of Medicine (9/2/99); Bad News: Stroke (9/99), Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology (9/99)



It's the face of Laurie Stollery, gardener, golfer and someone who walks at least 12 miles a week. Arthritis used to slow her down, but it doesn't anymore. A new medicine developed by America's pharmaceutical company researchelps to alleviate pain and swelling in a remarkable new way. Now Lauric can plant llowers and go for long evening walks whenever she wants to. Today, there isn't a cure for arthritis, but pharmaceutical researchers get closer every day. So people like Laurie Stollery can move and stretch, and live their lives to the fullest.

America's Pharmaceutical Companies

Leading the way in the search for cures



"It broke my heart to hear my daughter Dorsey say she wished her daddy was still here. But thanks to his foresight, we'll still have the things he worked for."

Dorsey Hoskins' father Bryan felt a tingling in his arm. The diagnosis an inoperable brain tumor. He died six months later, at 33, leaving his wife Dean alone to raise Dorsey and her sister Hattie.

Fortunately, Bryan bought life insurance when he got married, and again when his daughters were born.

Dean invested the proceeds in her own clothing store, which gives her the flexibility to spend more time with her children.

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AT LEAST HE WON'T HOG THE KEG

This spring the rapper MASE gave up singing about the giories of excess to devote himself to the glary of God. Now the 20-year-old has decided to add homework to the Lord's work and enrolled as a student of Lord Attains University. A profitige of Sean Contex (a.ka. Puff Daddy), Male sold one of the biggest state of Lord and the state of the conne of the biggest state in rape before resting from the business. Now he's just an oddly named coed. A spokesperson for the university said Make, porm Mason Betha, "Its right in and acts just like any other student," albeit one who has been granted special paring privilege, And while he no been granted special paring privilege, And while he no been granted special paring privilege, And while he no been granted special paring privilege, And while he no the paring the special paring privilege in the paring the paring suggest he has not given up on the material world almost the has not given up on the material world almost



Prince of Peeves

Only someone raised in the glare of Fleet Street could consider Hollywood a "breath of fresh air." That's how PRINCE EDWARD, Oueen Elizabeth's youngest son, described Los Angeles last week when he visited to drum up business for his fledgling TV company. Edward told the New York Times that unlike Angelenos, Britons "hate anyone who succeeds." It turns out they hate perceived traitors even more. Member of Parliament John Cryer pointed out that the Prince "has never had to do anything for his wealth." while the Times of London editorialized. "It ill-behooves a prince to diminish his people for his own ends." The Sun labeled the Prince "tactless and talentless," which, if true, won't hurt his fortunes in Hollywood. where such attributes have never stood in the way of success



CAN SKY DIVING BE FAR OFF ?

Adopting the wardrobe of a beatnik and the eating habits of a monk, RUPERT MURDOCH is easing into a new phase of life. In the upcoming issue of Vanity Fair, Murdoch, 68, reports that his updated look, featuring a preponderance of black, is due less to WENDI DENG. 32, his wife of three months, than to his sons. "I wanted to look like them," he says, "40 years younger." To that end, he has been visiting "some institute at UCLA-they've got me on a morning drink [of] fruit and soya powder" and exercising with a trainer who "tortures me for an hour every morning." While he works on the man, Deng is working on the manor. "Wendi is busy decorating the new apartment," he says. "She could get a job anywhere, but she cannot do that and travel with me." With him looking so dashing, it's no wonder she doesn't want to leave his side

FEUD OF THE WEEK



NAME: Martina "Not Navratilova" Hingis OCCUPATION: Teenage tennis phenom BEST PUNCH: After Serena and Venus' father predicted an all-Williams U.S. Open final, Hingis said he had a "big mouth" and the family "talk[s] a lot" NAME: Serena "Not Esther" Williams OCCUPATION: Teenage tennis phenom BEST PUNCH: The high school graduate noted that Hingls' habit of speaking out might have "a little bit to do with not having a forma education"

WINNER Women's tennis, especially since Hingis and Mr. Williams bused and and all the

Charles Krauthammer

We Will Have a King over Us

Is George W. just a brand name, or part of another political dynasty?

HEN EUWAID M. KENNEDY FIIST RAN FOR HIS BROTHER John's Senate seat in 1962, his opponent famously said of this youngest, least distinguished Kennedy, "If his name were Edward Moore, [his] candidacy would be a joke." In this season of George W. Bush, a pleasant reough Governor of modest achievement, one is forced to ask, "If his name were George Walter, would he be a presidential candidate, let alone the runaway front runner for the Republican nomination."

A nation can abolish monarchy, as America did with zest in 1776. But it cannot so easily abolish the dynastic impulse. The American fiscination with royally shows itself most flagrandly in our obsession with the Kennedy, but familial succession permetest American political life. Look in on further than the glamour noes for election year 2000. The top two Republican candidates are the son of a former President and the wife of the party's last presidential candidate (single at the top by the son of a famous philocraft).

Even more impressive is the aura surrounding Hillary Clinton's Senate bid. It has been widely noted how her "listening tout" of New York State rerembles the periodic descent of Britain's Queen among the commoners—taking seen of Britain's Queen among the commoners—taking seen of Britain's Queen among the commoners—taking strong seen of Britain's Queen among the commoners—taking strong seen of New York York (All Park 1994) and the second seen of the property of the Park 1994 and the Park 1994 an

In 1964 excited crowds tore at the outstretched arms of Robert Kennedy, often coming away with pieces of royal raiment. By no means, however, is the dynastic impulse a purely

American phenomenon. In Indonesia, Megawati Sukarnoputri led her party to victory in the recent elections. She came out of nowhere. She has no political experience. And her political views are almost unknown. No matter—she is the daughter of Sukarno, founder of the Indonesian state.

In India, an Italian woman who did not even become an Indian citizen until her mid-30 has suddenly here nelevated to head of the Congress Party and leading candidate for Prime Minister. Yet Sonia Gandhi is not even a member of Parliament. Her chief qualification? Choice of spouse. Her late husband was Rajiv Gandhi, shain Prime Minister, himself the most recent example of Indis's experiment in monarchical rule within a democratic shell. The line is almost unbroken. The first Prime Minister (Nehru) beagt a Prime Minister (daughter

Indira) who begat another (son Rajiv). His children being too young to reign, India's Congress Party is proposing what in the Middle Ages was called a regency: let the widow rule for now.

Sonia, however, is no pioneer of spousal succession. Corra con Aquino and Violeta Chamorro, both widows of assassinated opposition leaders, became Presidents, respectively, of the Philippines and Nicaragua. They did not, however, get there by default. They ascended by courageously making themselves the rullying point of a revolution. The one who did ascend for no other discernible reason than having shared the great

one's bed is one Mrs. Perón of Argentina. Not Evita, who became a saint after her death but never actually ruled—no, the sorriest modern case of rule by consort is Perón's third wife, Isabel, a cabaret dancer he met during one of his scules in Spain, who turned in one of the most disastrous presidencies in Argentine history. With so many republies turning so slavishly to

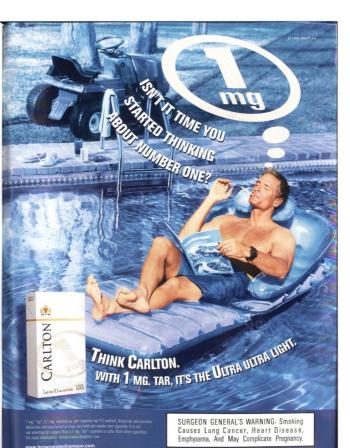
blood and bed partners for political salvation, it is refreshing to find places like Jordan and Morocco, which are open and honest about the whole thing. The leader dies; the eldest son becomes leader. No muss. No fuss.

Of course, totalitarian states do dynastic succession best of all. Assad of
Syria and Saddam of Iraq are currently
gooming sons to succeed them. In
North Korea, Kim Jong II sits upon the
throne of his god-dad, Kim II Sung, Batt
dictatorships are so much less interesting,
Rulers always want their heirs to rule, but
why do the ruled want it too? Why is the dynastic impulse so pouglar, so powerful in demoracies?

Perhaps in advanced capitalist countries like the U.S., the attraction to a Bush or a Dole has less to do with bloodline than with branding. The scions and consorts of the great carry trusted names. You by Diel Feps because you know and trust Pepsi. You figure that if the Pepsi people are making a dies soda, it is bound to be O.K. People know and like—particularly in late-Clinton retrospect—Bush the elder. Knowing the Bush brand, they are willings to try Bush the younger.

Well, perhaps. But the branding rationale lets us all off too easily. After all, monarchy long predates capitalism. The dynastic impulse in the modern world is less an expression of advanced consumerism than a recrudescence of the most primitive political impulse: "Nay, but we will have a king over us" (I Samuel 8: 19). Here in America we only lend the throne, for a four- or eight-year stretch. Progress, I suppose, from the endless tenure of the Henrys and the Edwards, when your pig in a noke was for life, but less progress than we think.

STRATION FOR TIME BY JOHN UELAND



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